

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE BILL BECOME LAW.

THE Irish Church Bill was converted into an Act of Parliament on Monday afternoon last. The danger which threatened it with sudden extinction the night before our last week's issue had suddenly passed away, and on Thursday evening it became known that the Lords, who on the foregoing Tuesday had shouted defiance at the House of Commons and the Government, were willing to agree to just such a compromise as would save their honour, and allow the measure to reassume a shape in which the representatives of the people could consent to accept it. It was felt, indeed, on Wednesday last, not only by the country, but by the Peers themselves, that the audacious spirit in which they had indulged over-night had entailed consequences which nothing could avert but timely signs of repentance and prompt acquiescence in the will of the nation, and Lord Cairns, moved probably by Mr. Disraeli, saw his opportunity of reinstating himself in the lead from which he had been unceremoniously deposed at the second reading of the Bill, and of thereby rescuing the Irish Church, and the House of Lords itself, from imminent peril. Correctly interpreting the wishes felt by nearly every member of the Hereditary Chamber, but which none of them was able to express, he took the responsibility of seeking an interview with Earl Granville, and of arranging with him terms of capitulation. Those terms, with many apologies for his presumption, he lucidly explained to their Lordships on Thursday night, and received from them, instead of a volley of reproaches, a shower of congratulations. They were accepted, too, by the Commons on Friday morning, and, as we have said, the Bill received the Royal assent by Commission, on Monday.

There were concessions on both sides. It would be vain to conceal that, on the part of the House of Commons, at the recommendation of Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues, the main point yielded, trenched to some extent, but not seriously, upon one of the main principles of the measure. The conditions on which the annuities given to the clergy in compensation for their vested interests may be commuted, secure for the disestablished Church a re-endowment of something approaching to 300,000*l.* The glebe-houses, with their curtilages, are to be purchased, as the Bill had originally provided, not given, the salaries of curates are to be deducted from

the annuities of incumbents only in cases in which income-tax has been paid upon that basis of calculation for the five preceding years. The Ulster glebes are retained by the nation; the offensive words in the preamble are struck out, and the surplus is to be appropriated to the relief of unavoidable calamity and misfortune, but under the direct authority of the Imperial Parliament. The outcome of the Act, as it now stands, may be summed up in a few words. On January the 1st, 1871, the Irish Church will "cease to be established by law"; the whole property of that Church has already become vested in the Commissioners appointed by the Act, subject to compensatory annuities to the Episcopal and Presbyterian clergy whose life interests it guarantees, to the grant of all Church edifices and furniture, of all the parsonages and their appurtenances, of 500,000*l.* in lieu of private endowments, and of twelve per cent. upon the commutation of three-fourths of clerical annuities in each diocese, whenever that commutation shall have been effected, to the Church Body hereafter to be constituted; subject also to payment of fourteen years' purchase in place of the endowment granted to Maynooth College. Over the appropriation of the surplus which the Act mainly devotes to charitable purposes Parliament will exercise direct supervision. In one word, the tie between Church and State in that part of her Majesty's dominions which we call Ireland has been finally severed, and each denomination of Christians in that island stands in the same relation of freedom and independence to the Imperial Government, and is left to rise or fall as its merits or demerits shall determine.

Upon the magnitude of this result, and upon the influence it will be sure to bring to bear on the general question of Establishments of religion in other parts of the United Kingdom, we say nothing at present. We can only stand amazed in the presence of the great achievement of which it is our privilege this day to announce the consummation. We regard it as little short of a legislative miracle. Eighteen months ago none of us could have dared to hope for such a result. The vision which we then cherished has become suddenly realised. Events have outrun our wildest anticipations. Not the Commons only, but the Lords and the Queen, have concurred in setting their joint seal to a doctrine which for a quarter of a century previously we had persevered in proclaiming amid the incredulous jeers of our fellow-countrymen. The Liberation Society has had the honour of pioneering the way for this marvellous triumph. Without detracting, or wishing to detract, one iota from the praise justly due to Mr. Gladstone for the immense contribution he has made for the settlement of this controversy, it may yet be maintained that the work done by this Society in preparing the public mind for the hour and the man, was not less indispensable to the victory that has been secured than the work done by the illustrious statesman in turning that preparation to practical account. To him we cheerfully assign all the honours which admiration of his courage, his self-sacrifice, his indefatigable industry, his accuracy of information, his marvellous eloquence, and his inflexibility of purpose, compel us to yield. But, it must not be lost sight of that long before he entered upon this field to reap so precious a harvest, many had been already long engaged in

turning up the soil, in clearing it from weeds, and in scattering broadcast over it the seeds of truth, the produce of which has carried satisfaction and joy to so many patriotic hearts.

The effect of this surprising triumph, as might have been expected, has been various upon different classes of minds. Perhaps the temper in which the English hierarchy, if fairly represented by the Archbishop of Canterbury, have met the event, is least likely to further the interests of our common Christianity. The glee with which the most reverend prelate chuckled over the endowment which the Irish Church retains, the insolence of his mistimed denunciations of the voluntary principle, and the essential unbelief with which he treated spiritual energy considered as a power for building up and extending the Church of Christ on earth, brought a blush of shame into the cheeks of his most devoted friends, and revealed a coarse Erastianism of spirit which will probably inflict a deeper injury upon the Church Establishment of this country, than any future efforts of his or of his brethren can possibly repair. Even that House in which, for the present, so-called statesmanship finds a readier response than graceful exhibitions of Christian humility and self-denial, heard his concluding words with mortification, and the country read with no less amazement, but with a more sensitive recoil, those sentences which, issuing at such a time from the lips of the Primate of all England, suggested the thought that if the Establishment of religion could produce nothing higher than this, there would be little reason to regret when Establishments, as such, have ceased to exist.

The closing scene in the House of Commons was of a far different character. The speech of Mr. Gladstone in recommending to its acceptance the concessions which had been made to the Lords by his colleague, Lord Granville, was pervaded from beginning to end by a spirit of gentleness, sympathy, and faith. It was responded to in most conciliatory tones by the speakers who on both sides of the House succeeded him. One after another sought to efface from himself the stains and dust of the foregoing conflict; and as men of honour, and men who had yet some trust in the vitality of religion, each of them confessed that the battle had been fairly fought and won, and declared his readiness to make the policy which had thus received the stamp of national approval, as fruitful of good, and as little productive of evil, as the case would admit of. A heart-thrilling cheer concluded the proceedings, and it was generally felt, but especially by the Liberal side of the House, that "*All's well that ends well.*"

WHAT THE IRISH CHURCH ACT DOES.

VERY few Bills, we imagine, ever underwent more manipulations and alterations than did the Irish Church Bill, in the various stages of its passage through the two Houses of Legislature, and very few Bills have come out of such a trial with so little substantial alteration. The avowed purpose of the measure has not been at all changed, nor the unity of its design either injured or impaired. It is consistent throughout. There are no clauses, so far as we have found, that contradict other clauses. It is therefore, not merely a great and comprehensive Act, but it will, we think, be found to be a workable Act. We propose to show exactly what the measure proposes to do, and what must be done in virtue of its various provisions.

The Preamble does not stand as it did. It recited that the surplus proceeds of Irish Church property should be "held and applied for the advantage of the Irish people, but not for the maintenance of any church or clergy or other ministry, nor for the teaching of religion," and it recited that "it is further expedient that the said property, or the proceeds thereof, should be appropriated mainly to the relief of unavoidable calamity and suffering, yet so as not to cancel or impair the obligation now attached to property under the Acts for the relief of the poor." These words are left out, and the Preamble now states that the property shall be "applied in such manner as Parliament shall hereafter direct."

The arrangement of the clauses is very clear and logical, and therefore the Act will be easy of reference. The Act is to be called the Irish Church Act, 1869, and the second clause provides that after 1st January, 1871, the union between the Churches of England and Ireland shall be dissolved, and the Irish Church shall cease to be established by law. The process of disestablishment is completed in five lines. The next seven clauses deal with the constitution and powers of the Commissioners, of whom there are three, viz., Viscount Monck, Mr. Justice Lawson, and Mr. G. A. Hamilton. Nothing is to be done under this Act, but by all the three Commissioners acting jointly. They have power to appoint and remove officers, to enforce attendance of witnesses and production of books, &c., to issue commissions, to punish for contempt, and to make rules. Their term of office is to last for ten years. Next follow the clauses relating to Church property. After January 1st, 1871, all this property is to be vested in the Commissioners. The incumbents—Episcopal and other—will cease to hold their present possessions; all Ecclesiastical Corporations whatsoever will be dissolved, and the bishops will cease to sit in the House of Lords.

Next come the Compensation Clauses. The Commissioners are to ascertain the yearly income of every ecclesiastical person, and are to pay to such person, with certain deductions, the amount of his income as long as he lives and discharges his duties. This extends to curates as well as to incumbents. The Commissioners have also power to give gratuities to other than permanent curates, but the gratuity is not in any case to exceed 600*l*. Diocesan schoolmasters, clerks, and sextons are to receive an annuity on the same terms as other parties. Organists and vergers, however, are to receive only one year's salary. Lay patrons, Roman Catholics as well as others, are also to be compensated for the loss of their advowsons.

The powers of the new Church are next specified. All laws prohibiting the holding of synods or conventions are repealed; the bishops, clergy, and laity may meet as they think proper; they may make rules for the "well-being and ordering of the Church, frame constitutions and regulations, and provide for the future representation in diocesan synods, general conventions, or otherwise." No alteration in the present laws of the Church is to be binding upon any who may dissent from them, and no ecclesiastical person is to possess any coercive jurisdiction. Until a new constitution is provided the present constitution of the Church is to be binding on the members for the time being. Ecclesiastical Courts and all Ecclesiastical laws are abolished except in so far as they may relate to "matrimonial causes and matters." The new Church may, with Her Majesty's consent, hold property for Church purposes, such property being vested in persons appointed by the Church Body.

The dealings between the Commissioners and the representative Church Body are then defined. It is provided that if in any diocese three-fourths of the whole number of ecclesiastical persons have commuted or agreed to commute their life interests, the Commissioners shall pay to the Church Body, in addition to the value of the life interests, estimated at fourteen years' purchase, a sum equal to twelve per cent. on the commutation money. The annuities are then to cease, and any estates in which there was a life interest are to be vested in the Commissioners. Ruinous and disused churches of a monumental character are to be vested in the Commissioners of Public Works. Churches in use are, upon application, to be vested in the Church Body. If no application be received, the building may be vested in either a private person who may seem to be entitled to them, from having built them, or disposed of as the Commissioners may think fit. School-houses are to go with the churches. Burial-grounds are to follow the same rule, or are to be vested in the guardians of the poor. Ecclesiastical residences and lands attached are to be vested in the Church Body upon payment of ten years' annual value, with the building charge, if any, upon it. Power is also given to make every globe equal to ten acres upon

payment of a proper sum. The interests of the Church private endowments are to be commuted by the payment to the Church Body by the Commissioners of 500,000*l*. Moveable chattels, such as plate, &c., are to be the property of the Church Body.

Next we have instructions to the Commissioners for the management of their property; and it is provided that title rent-charge may be commuted by the landlord at twenty-two and a-half times the value of such rent-charge; that, subject to certain conditions and limitations, the Commissioners may sell the property that may come into their possession, but they are not to expend any money in building or in repairs. They may, however, borrow for necessary purposes.

The clauses relating to the *Regium Donum* and Maynooth were not touched by the Lords. With respect to the first the Commissioners are to ascertain the amount hitherto received, and are to pay the same as a life annuity, the provisions of the commutation being the same as in the Church. This extends to all congregations which, on the 1st March, 1869, were fulfilling the conditions necessary for obtaining the *Donum*. Professors in the Belfast College are also to be compensated, and a sum, not exceeding 15,000*l*, is to be paid to the trustees in respect of the building. In the case also of Maynooth, a sum equal to fourteen times the amount of the present grant is to be paid in lieu of the grant, and the trustees are released of the present debt on the College.

What is to be done with respect to vacancies that may occur between now and the 1st of January, 1871? This subject is carefully dealt with, it being provided, that when such vacancies occur, the property shall immediately vest in the Commissioners. In the case of a vacant archbishopric, the Queen may, upon the requisition of three bishops, fill up the vacancy, and so also in respect to a vacant bishopric. Vacant benefices may be filled up as at present, but the persons who supply the vacancy are not to be entitled to any compensation or annuity in respect of their office.

The last important subject dealt with is that of the surplus. In the old clause (68), the manner in which this was to be disposed of was fully detailed, but the Lords struck out this portion of the clause, and added that it should be applied in such manner as Parliament shall hereafter direct. The result of the compromise is that the Act now declares that it is expedient that the proceeds shall be appropriated mainly to the relief of inevitable calamity and suffering.

Such is the great Act as it has now received the Queen's assent. It is scarcely forty pages in length, but how comprehensive it is! What a grand purpose it accomplishes! How simple, too, it is! Any one can understand it. It is so admirable, indeed, that we should like to see one or two more of the same character and intent.

ECCELESIASTICAL NOTES.

THE Wesleyan Conference, now sitting at Hull, has commenced in good spirit. As has generally been the case, an increase on former numbers is reported. There are sixteen more day schools and 8,900 scholars in the connexion than there were a year ago; there are eighty-six more Sunday-schools and 29,781 more Sunday scholars; there are 723 more teachers and officers. This denomination, therefore, is not decaying. In public spirit it is improving. Mr. McArthur, M.P., moved a resolution, which we should be glad to see carried in other quarters, protesting against the intolerance of clergymen and others towards children of the congregations who attend national schools, and resolving that the enforcement of an adequate conscience clause in all schools receiving Parliamentary grants was due to the protection of the liberties of the people, and that the Conference should urge the question upon the Government. This was carried unanimously. It is quite time that such action was taken, and we hope to see the fruit of this and similar representations in the Education Bill which the Government have engaged to introduce next year.

The committee of the Church Conference recently held at Sheffield have presented a report in favour of greater co-operation with the laity, and they suggest many forms in which that co-operation is desired. These are some of them:—

1st. In the public worship: (1) By reading the lessons; (2) joining the choir; (3) maintaining the responsive character of the services; (4) acting as wardens, sidemen, or assistants for the preservation of order, promoting the comfort and accommodation of the congregation, collecting alms, and other such purposes.—2nd. In educational efforts: (1) By active service on the school committees, and occasional visits and inspection of the day-schools; (2) regular and effectual help as superintendents, teachers, and visitors in Sunday-schools; (3) assisting evening schools and adult classes; (4) privately instructing individuals or classes; (5) urging, and where needful helping, parents

to send their children to both Sunday and day schools; (6) Lectures, readings, singing classes, working men's associations, &c.—3rd. In departments of religious and benevolent agency: (1) District or household visiting; (2) mission-room services; (3) cottage lectures and Bible classes; (4) dispensation of charity; (5) receiving contributions for books and clothes, conducting penny banks, &c.—4th. In finance: As collectors, treasurers, secretaries, for every part of Church work, including the rendering of periodical accounts of all funds and other operations of each parish or district.—5th. On the Church Committee: By joining with other workers within the parish or district to form a committee who shall assist the clergy in all matters relating to the work of the Church.

Something like this would unquestionably add to the strength of the Church, for such modes of operation have been very mainly influential in increasing the strength of Dissent. They are so Dissenting in their character, in fact, that we doubt whether they will be adopted in many parishes. Could not the new Irish Church take a hint from them?

An "Anglican Priest" writes to the *Cambridge Independent* a letter of manly expostulation in respect to the conduct of the bishops during the recent debates. He says that it has filled him with pain and humiliation that—

No Spiritual Peer, no bishop has risen, in the majesty of a sublime faith in his religion and his Church, to calm the fears and scatter the doubts of the temporal Lords. No bishop has chosen to remind them, as they might have been reminded, of the Apostolic succession of the Church's ministry, or at least of their Divine commission and authority. No bishop of the Church has insisted upon the abiding force of the Holy Spirit that waxeth not old, and of the light that in her means of grace "shineth brighter and brighter unto the perfect day." No bishop has ventured to impress upon the minds of England's peers the glorious history of the early Church, when, without establishments or endowments, she made her best conquests and laid the world at her feet, "not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord of Hosts."

These men have missed, he thinks, a grand opportunity. They have been mere "higglers," and have degraded themselves below the level of any temporal peer. And, he adds:—"I record my solemn conviction that while the episcopal speeches and the episcopal votes will fail to arrest the just downfall of the State Establishment of the so-called Irish Church, they will have hastened and ensured, for good or for evil, the downfall, at no very distant day, of the establishment of that other Church of England which they, its lordly representatives, have proclaimed to value as the perishing rather than the eternal."

We have before us a full report of the speech delivered by Archdeacon Denison at Liverpool, on Tuesday last. It is good in its way as anything could be, for, as the Archdeacon remarks, he always says what he means and means what he says. And therefore he says that he has been fighting the battle of Church and State for thirty-five years, and has lived to see the external position of the Church slowly declining. "It was like a locomotive dragging a train of public opinion down hill, and travelling at a fearful rate." The Archdeacon goes on to say that he had done what he could, but how could anybody stop an engine that was "going down the inclined plane of civil and religious liberty"? However, he was neither in fear nor discouragement. He thought it possible now that separation of Church and State would come in his time, and then came the following anecdote:—

He (the Archdeacon) would tell them what a yeoman of his part of the country said of the House of Commons. People in the South, he might say, felt as deeply on these things as people down here in Liverpool—(Hear, hear)—but they did not always feel the same. Well, this yeoman came up to him and said, "What do you think of this business of the Irish Church?" He (the Archdeacon) replied that he thought very badly of it; and the yeoman added, "There was once a man called Oliver Cromwell—(laughter and cheers)—and do you know what he did to Parliament?" He (the Archdeacon) said, "Yes, I know"—(laughter); and the yeoman added, "Well, sir, that was the right way to go about it, and I wish there was another Oliver Cromwell to do the same work now." (Laughter, cheers, and hisses.)

Next the opinion was expressed that the sooner the bishops were out of the House of Lords the better. The Archdeacon says that he never yet changed his mind upon any question, and never would; otherwise we should say that we shall soon find him expressing his sympathy with other objects of the Liberation party, besides this.

A curious tale comes to us from Wales in a correspondence printed in the *Cambrian* newspaper. It appears that a monument has been erected in the north aisle of St. Mary's Church, Swansea, in memory of the late Dr. Howell, without the permission of the gentleman, the Rev. Calvert R. Jones, of Bath, who claims to be the owner of the aisle. Mr. Jones accordingly wrote to the Vicar of Swansea and to the representatives of Dr. Howell requesting that the monument should be removed, or he would claim damages. The vicar gives some strange facts in his reply. It appears that Mr. Jones charges four and seven guineas for pews in his aisle, and makes altogether about 60*l*. a year from them. The gross rents has probably produced more than 1,000*l*.

During this time, says the vicar, "you contribute nothing towards the expenses of conducting the services, neither to the support of the clergy, the maintenance of the choir, organ, nor to the various church officials. You receive many benefits, but you contribute nothing towards the sustentation of the work. Yet without these services the aisle is utterly valueless—it is by these alone you derive an income." But the vicar did not gain his case: how could he expect it after this? The monument had to be taken down. As the vicar says:—"Our senators need not go across the water to legislate for disestablishment and disendowment—they may find full employment nearer home on Church reformation and the correction of Church abuses exercised by their fellow-laymen." But we should not have expected a vicar to say this!

DEPUTIES OF THE THREE DENOMINATIONS.

The half-yearly meeting of the deputies of the three denominations was held on Wednesday at the Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., chairman of the Deputies, in the chair.

Mr. C. SHEPHERD, the secretary, read the minutes of last meeting, which were confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN said there was no official report to be presented, but he would mention two or three measures that had been before Parliament since they last assembled. Sir J. D. Coleridge's Test Abolition Bill was triumphantly carried through the Commons, and on the 19th July it went up to the House of Lords, where upon the motion of the previous question, it was rejected by a majority of 37. That was an unexpected result, for considering that the question had been before the country for many years, and that the measure had met with the approval of Mr. Walpole and Mr. Beresford Hope, it was thought their lordships would have given it a little more serious consideration. Led on, however, by the majority of the bishops, they were not yet prepared to do justice in the matter; but the time was not far distant when the great universities of the country would be thrown open to all classes. The Endowed Schools Bill, a most valuable measure, had passed the Commons, with every prospect of its getting through the Lords. Mr. Haddfield had withdrawn his Burials Bill, owing to a well-grounded feeling that the state of business before Parliament would preclude its passing this session. Personally he had himself been connected with a measure, the object of which was to exempt Sunday and ragged-schools from local rates, which the accident of a legal decision had rendered them liable to. It was opposed by the officials of both the present and the late Government, but the House of Commons answered his appeal by a majority of 157, and on Thursday night the bill passed through the committee of the House of Lords. The whole question of rating must come up again next session, including of course the claims to exemption, and then the schools, like churches and public buildings, would have to stand upon their own merits. In the meantime only an act of justice would have been done by restoring them to their original position. As a representative body, the breakfast meeting held some short time ago had proved a great success, as had also the meeting of all the Nonconformist bodies, held on the 28th of June, on the Irish Church Bill. The power and influence of the latter had been felt throughout the country, as would be most conclusively shown in the demonstrations likely to take place before September or October. What was the position of that bill? It was this—the Lords had restored their alteration in the preamble, whereby the declaration of the Commons, that the money of the Church should not be appropriated to religious purposes, would be defeated. The question, then, was no longer a difference between the Lords and the Commons; it rested now with the House of Lords and the nation; and if the bill were withdrawn, as he trusted it would be, there must be a renewed fight throughout the country in the autumn. But Lord Shaftesbury had truly warned their lordships that the people had made up their minds the bill should be carried, and he believed they would again say firmly and boldly, "We will have the bill." It was humiliating to think of the haggling there had been about the money, but the money question was a secondary affair. The first question was, Shall the Irish Church be disestablished? and that both Lords and Commons had accepted; and the next, Shall the Irish Church be disendowed? had also been practically accepted by both Houses. Then came the great struggle as to the disposal of the 16,000,000*l.* and in the result the Lords proposed to leave the Church richer than when she was under State control; but he was convinced the people of this country would never submit to the concurrent endowment which was to form part of the bargain. (Hear, hear.) The leader of the House of Commons had acted his part nobly, and when on the previous night he heard him spoken of as "an arrogant Minister," coupled with expressions of the "tyranny and intolerance" of the Commons' majority, he could not resist the thought that something would shortly be heard from the people that might startle the House of Lords, and perhaps alarm the spiritual peers. (Cheers.) Not, however, that he advocated indulgence in strong language except for the maintenance of their principles. They as a class had never taken money from the State. They resisted the *Regium Donum*, and got rid of it by a strong protest; but they never had a penny in the shape of

compensation. Still the Presbyterians should be fairly compensated; and, indeed, he wanted to see everybody fairly settled with, but it should be at the present time. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. JOHN GLOVER proposed a resolution affirming that the Irish Church Establishment had always been a grievance to the Irish people; that the deputies viewed with satisfaction the introduction of the Irish Church Bill into Parliament by the Government, and its passage through the House of Commons by large majorities; and they hoped that the House of Lords would respect the public opinion of the country thus clearly expressed; that the attempt made in the House of Lords to retain nearly the whole of the Church property for the use of the disestablished Church, and to provide for the endowment of the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian Churches, was contrary to the principle embodied in the bill, and would be strenuously resisted by the Nonconformists of the country; and that the meeting was of opinion that the bill, as altered by the House of Lords, would not remove the grievances now existing, but would create fresh cause for dissatisfaction; and the deputies respectfully, but earnestly, requested the Government not to accept such of the amendments as were opposed to the principle of disestablishment and disendowment. Mr. Glover thought it would be better, if it could be done, to have the question settled now, rather than deferred to an autumn session; but whatever delay took place it could not change the views of the people as to the necessity of such a measure, while it must inevitably serve with, so to speak, compound interest the great cause of religious liberty. Whatever might be the end of the crisis, it must advance the policy of the Nonconformist party. He was amazed at the religious treatment the question had met with in the House of Lords. The greatest enemies of the Established Church could not have pursued a course more calculated to injure it than that followed by some of the bishops. But if it was bad for endowments, how much worse was it for Protestantism? As the Duke of Somerset had said, it was shocking to hear these religious men telling not only the Catholics of Ireland but of all Europe, that our Protestantism was doomed if its State endowments and State privileges had no chance. Such declarations, however, were a scandal upon the Protestantism of the United Kingdom. But beyond that, what effect must those debates have upon that great mass of the English people who went to no church at all? It must be most disastrous; and Christian men would not be doing their duty if they did not say they had no such fears for religion in general and Protestantism in particular. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. CARVELL WILLIAMS seconded the resolution, remarking that there was a strong and growing impression on the part of the public that the presence of the bishops in the House of Lords was not only injurious to the political, but also to the religious interests of the country. At all events, those members of the Church of England who wished to prevent the endowment of Romanism must ally themselves with the Dissenters or Voluntaries, who, after all, were the truest exponents of the No Popery cry. The old No Popery cry had fairly collapsed.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. S. R. PATTERSON moved a resolution, declaring it to be unjust to impose religious tests at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, while the recent decision of the House of Lords in refusing to consider the Abolition Bill had tended to shake the confidence of Nonconformists in the impartiality of that House. The resolution also conveyed the thanks of the Nonconformist body to Sir John Duke Coleridge for his able advocacy of their claim to the benefits of the Universities as national institutions.

Mr. HENRY WRIGHT seconded the motion, and it was unanimously assented to.

On the motion of Mr. T. O. TURNBULL, seconded by Mr. E. UNDERHILL, a third resolution was passed in like manner thanking Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., for his energetic action on the Endowed Schools Bill, and congratulating him upon the prospect of its becoming law.

Mr. THOMAS PIPER proposed, and Mr. P. BUNNELL seconded, a warm vote of thanks to the Chairman, not only for presiding, but for the services he had rendered elsewhere. And the honourable gentleman in returning thanks spoke of the ability and disposition of the House of Commons, under God's help, to advance the interests of the people in these momentous times.

THE UNIVERSITY TESTS BILL.

"Seven Fellows of Colleges" send the daily papers the following, relative to the Universities Bill rejected by the Lords:—

It would perhaps be unreasonable to wonder that ninety-one peers should have united to reject the University Tests Bill; but the manner and circumstances of its rejection are noteworthy. The subject is of national, it may be said of historic importance. It has been before Parliament at frequent intervals for thirty-five years. In its present phase it has been argued every session during the last seven years. This very bill has been discussed now for two years. Opinions adverse to and in favour of it have been expressed by almost every eminent member of the two Universities; hardly any measure has received such full, careful, and elaborate criticism. Yet it is thought dignified by their lordships to complain of the time at which it is first "introduced" to their august notice; to profess themselves too much occupied, or too much exhausted, to examine it; and to plead that now the long vacation has begun it is impossible to ascertain the opinions of the University of Oxford.

The House of Peers is in this matter, as in some

others, avowedly at variance with current popular opinion. Its province, in such circumstances, appears to be peculiarly the invention, or recommendation, or adoption of some compromise. Now, here is a bill for which is claimed the position of an equitable compromise. It has been drawn up not in accordance with extreme views, but in order to meet half way the Conservative objections in which its promoters do not share. It has, in consequence, been frankly accepted by many who were at first opposed to it. It is a Liberal measure which has won the support of many Conservatives, both political and academical. It is emphatically a measure of peace, a *modus vivendi* between irreconcilable opinions. It is recommended, moreover, as a remedy for notorious cases of individual hardship and public damage. Yet it is met by their lordships with a refusal to discuss it, and rejected without the proposal of any alternative measure.

We have lately been called upon to admire the statesmanship displayed in the debates of the House of Peers; we have even been summoned to recognise in them the last utterances of the most perfect representative wisdom of the country. Now, here is a proposal of University reform, made, not by demagogues or Dissenters, but by University men, well acquainted with the facts of their case, and ardently attached to the institutions they are desirous to amend. It is supported by the signatures to petitions in its favour of half the professors and half the working bodies of the two Universities, and of more than four hundred who are or have been fellows of colleges. It has been explained and approved on far more than half the hustings in the kingdom; it has won its way, in spite of its moderate character and the technicalities of the subject, to a large amount of popular appreciation; it has, in consequence, been three times passed by great and increasing majorities, in two Parliaments, through the House of Commons. Yet no member of the regular Opposition, the paramount party in the House of Peers—no leader, no member of the late Government—no peer whose voice counts for more than a unit on a division, has a word to say upon the subject. The orators and statesmen are silent. When votes may be given without danger in opposition to the popular will, then, it seems, votes are all that will be given us.

The arguments of Lord Carnarvon and the Bishop of Gloucester had probably little to do with the rejection of the bill. Nevertheless, they seemed to the silent majority to be good enough for the occasion, and in this light they deserve some notice.

Lord Carnarvon, ignoring the fact that it has been previously suggested by no less a man than Mr. Liddon, and even under his auspices received with no favour, has a scheme for transferring college property by wholesale to the University, in order to retain the colleges, when so mutilated, for the Church of England. He mixes this proposition up with other suggestions involving the whole question of University reform, and modestly asks that the Tests Bill may be postponed *sine die*, to afford time for him to mature, and for the country to appreciate, his scheme. Is it possible to view this, in his lordship's mouth, as a frank proposal for settling a controverted question? Is it feasible to relegate this Test controversy, ripe from the discussion of seven years, to the distant period when we shall have agreed upon the constitution of the University of the future?

The Bishop of Gloucester is determined to have the honour of inventing a smaller concession to the Nonconformists than any one else. He proposes to open Convocation and the Senate, and to close the Council, which he calls the governing body of the University. He would not liberate a single college fellowship or a single University office. He is willing, however, that Dissenters should have denominational colleges, provided these have no share in the old endowments, and University fellowships, provided they be divested of any advantage that may be due to the collegiate bond. If this is the spirit in which the question is to be treated, the Bishop's concession will be tolerated only till some one can invent a pettier one.

There is not in the whole debate a word to show that their lordships appreciate the present position of this controversy within the walls of the colleges. There are already differences of theological opinion among fellows at least as great as any that could result from this bill. There is little religious instruction now afforded by college systems; there would be no less if this measure were to pass. It is carefully guarded from interfering with the chapel services and divinity lectures of colleges.

It is now time to consider whether it may not be easier to force on the Peers a measure for the sweeping and effectual abolition of all tests, whether in college or University, than to induce them to accept the mildest and most conciliatory of compromises.

The *Spectator* sees in the rejection by the Lords of the University Tests Bill a proof that, in spite of the compromise upon the Irish Church Bill, it is simply impossible for the nation to get along with the Upper House as that House is at present constituted. Whatever the ultimate change—whether the House is swamped with life peers, or privy councillors are allowed to sit and vote, or the Peers are declared admissible to seats in the Commons, change, it is daily becoming clearer, there must be, if the machine is to go on at all. After years of discussion, and agitation, and progressive experiment, the country has decided that university tests shall be finally and totally abolished. No man's creed shall be a barrier to his obtaining the pecuniary reward of his exertions as a student; no man shall be prevented from teaching because of his religious opinions. Career in the Universities, as in the world, is to be opened to the competent, and the obligation of hypocrisy now enforced on the ambitious is to be finally removed. The bill goes up to the Peers, who almost without discussion, certainly without debate, declare that the nation shall not have its way; that religious opinion shall continue to be a disqualification for the office of teacher in a national university. As if to mark, beyond all possibility of doubt, the depth of the chasm between the two Houses, the peer who advises and leads the rejection is one who represents not its lowest, but its highest enlightenment—Lord Carnarvon.

THE ENGLISH PRESS ON THE IRISH CHURCH COMPROMISE.

The *Times* says that a settlement of the Irish Church Bill has been effected, which in form will probably be satisfactory to no one, but in fact will be satisfactory to all. No compromise ever did or ever will satisfy all the parties whose interests are affected by it. When history describes the legislative abolition of the Irish Establishment, the courage and practical good sense of Lord Cairns will be held up to the earnest admiration of the student. His resolution to negotiate single-handed with the Ministry was equally bold and wise, and by his boldness and wisdom he warded off great evils from the State. In a subsequent leader the *Times* discusses the consolidation of the Irish Free Church, and thinks it cannot really be so great a loss that the Irish Church has no longer to sustain the hollow pretence of being the Church of the Irish people. That miserable imposture has tainted every title, and honest and dignity, nay, even every virtue and merit, possessed by the Church. Its eloquent preachers, its clever writers, have all suffered the disparagement that they were not really what they pretended to be, and that while they professed to be shepherds their sheep knew them not and would not hear their voice. This semblance has disappeared. It is true that prospects have been "blighted," as it is called, and expectations have been reduced to sober limits. The long lives of expectants supposed to depend for promotion on episcopal favour or clerical mortality have been disappointed. But every Irishman worth his salt can easily make his way in this country, if only because the circumstances of his Church have naturally directed attention rather to preaching than to what are called pastoral duties. If an Irish clergyman is not a good preacher—and he generally is—he is nothing. It may be readily supposed that a voluntary and self-governing body will not waste much of its funds on bishoprics and stalls. It will soon find either that fewer men can do the work, or that, if the numbers must be kept, they need not be paid quite so handsomely. The *Times* predicts the rise of a better feeling between the Irish clergy and their congregations; that they will see more of each other, and speak more kindly one of another. Moreover, the relations of the other communions cannot but be made easier by the removal of a false assumption which barred friendly approach and made confidence impossible.

The *Daily News* allows that the friendly words which had discord between the two branches of the Legislature are wisely employed; but relations permanently harmonious between the Lords and the Commons must rest on a basis different from that on which the present settlement has been adjusted.

The *Star*, with the rest, looks to see the joyful scene of Friday speedily crowned with the fruits of peace, charity, and happiness. It must be speedily followed, moreover, by further beneficent Irish legislation, for which this first success of the great united Liberal party is a happy precedent and omen.

The *Standard's* opinion of the measure is unchanged. The State has repudiated all concern for the religious instruction of the people, and it is small compensation for that repudiation that the disestablished Church has not been sent out upon its new mission absolutely naked and beggared. Yet assuming that disestablishment was inevitable, the conditions of disendowment could hardly, consistently with the principle of the measure, have been more equitable; and one can find a consolation for a defeat which was determined in November by a "victory" won in July. The Irish Church has gone, but the House of Lords has fully asserted its authority, and asserted its vast superiority in many important respects over the Lower House.

The *Telegraph* is rejoiced to see a forward movement so bold and so difficult once more accomplished in the true old English manner, and by the united powers of the realm. It is all the more rejoiced because, first in order among the future reforms—although second to none in respect of difficulty and importance—will come the great question of the land.

The *Spectator* finds the net result of the peace between the Lords and Commons to be this—that the Ministry have abated their price by an infinitesimal sum to make a loophole for the dignity of the Lords, and the Lords have accepted the loophole with enthusiasm, and crept through it with unaffected joy. This, the *Spectator* remarks, is a profoundly English end to a menacing situation. The English people thoroughly enjoy an all but catastrophe which falls of being a catastrophe because principle breaks down under the strain, and that is what they extol as statesmanship.

The Irish Church Bill, says the *Saturday Review*, has really passed. After so much fierce discussion, after so many perils, it has become law, and this great success is not alloyed either by an access of religious bitterness, or by the imminence of a constitutional conflict, or by a good bill being made a bad bill. A compromise has been effected, but it is not a compromise which in any way goes to the principles of the bill. England has made a great sacrifice to Ireland, and has made it in the only way in which a sacrifice can do good, by making it boldly, generously, and without hesitation. The general result is in every way satisfactory. Disestablishment is complete, and disendowment is complete, excepting that where there was a point, not of principle, but of detail, fairly open to doubt, the leaning has been, as it ought to have been, in favour of the disendowed Church. The unexpected escape of all parties from a position of much embarrassment is mainly due to Lord Cairns. It is true that the Government have shown moderation, judgment, and a conciliatory spirit in the final negotia-

tions; but then they have substantially got all that they wanted, and people who triumph ought to be in a good humor. But Lord Cairns had a very difficult task to perform. He had at once to restate himself in the leadership of his party, which had passed away from him since his defeat on the second reading, and he had to set for and lead his party without consulting it. He acted in the right way at the right moment, and he was rewarded by the applause of men of all parties. Everyone was more or less contented and happy, and the Irish Church Bill was passed, to stand, we trust, as a lasting record of what England is willing to do for Ireland, and of what can be carried in a few months by a strong and resolute Ministry, backed up by a nation anxious to do right and justice at any cost.

The *Economist* thinks that the acceptance of Lord Cairns's compromise by the Government is quite a legitimate occasion for the congratulations which have come from the majority of all parties concerned. It should and happily a long and bitter agitation which was almost getting too trying for the temper of our public men. Extreme partisans on both sides will probably be dissatisfied, but English parties are mainly composed of moderate and almost neutral men, and the more violent members will be discouraged in criticising and opposing the settlement. The country is heartily tired of the controversy, and will hardly mind the few drawbacks, if any, to the completeness of the triumph which has been won for the national policy. The friends of the Irish Church, in the first place, should be very well contented. Detesting the bill as Lord Cairns still says he does, they must know very well that no further fight could be made for their cause—that they had carried resistance to the utmost limits of a fair constitutional struggle, and it had become only a question what shape their defeat would take. When the Government resolved on Tuesday to consult on their future course no one doubted what the end would have been, though the exact measures to be adopted were uncertain. The last moment had come then for making conditions, if an unconditional defeat very soon after was to be averted; but that they have been able to make conditions at all, when the conflict had been carried to so extreme a length, is a success for which they cannot be too grateful. But, secondly, the promoters of the bill may rejoice in their triumph, since after all they have not conceded anything essential. The bill as much as ever disestablishes and disendows the Irish Church—puts an end to Protestant ascendancy, and does not by any trickery re-endow the disestablished body.

The *John Bull* thinks that the importance of the compromise cannot be exaggerated. It may be said that dissatisfaction all round proves how true a compromise it is; but we believe that, as far as asserting the dignity of the House of Lords is concerned, the compromise is in favour of the Constitutional party; for the Peers will think twice before, by their own act, they are compelled to accept such a compromise. But where Lord Cairns has yielded, in our opinion most wrongly, has been in allowing the 68th clause to be altered so as, inferentially at least, to commit the House of Lords to the secularisation of Church revenues. When such a bishop as the prelate who voted with the Government against his brethren on Tuesday, to the inexpressible grief of his best friends, can overlook the importance of maintaining this solemn principle, Lord Cairns may be excused for not seeing that the only principle for which it was possible to contend, after the second reading, was in seeing that double-distilled sacrilege was not sanctioned by the House. How far in the clause it is actually laid down is a question we leave for casuists; but we can assure the noble and learned lord that many peers feel keenly that their solemn pledges have been violated by an arrangement which, however well intended, was not authorised. We cannot hold with many of our friends that the authority of the House of Lords has been jeopardised by Lord Cairns; but a solemn principle has been yielded through sheer inability to appreciate its importance. Instead of gleaming all round, dishing all round seems to be the end of this atrocious bill for robbing the unhappy Irish Church.

THE IRISH PRESS ON THE SETTLEMENT.

The Irish Conservative papers are very angry with the House of Lords on account of their retreat upon the Church disestablishment question. *Saunders's News Letter*, one of the most moderate of the party organs, says:—

It remains to be seen how far the position of coerced submission in which noble lords have found themselves may act prejudicially to their House hereafter. The peers naturally were anxious to retain, if not actual power, at least the semblance of it; and so the nation has been called on to witness the imposing drama on which the curtain has just dropped. When questions the natural offspring of Irish Church legislation, and more immediately touching the privileges, perhaps the pockets, of these magnanimous aristocrats, come under discussion, we trust, for its own sake, that the hereditary Chamber may not again indulge in the mere mimicry of war. We feel really pained to speak thus of such exalted personages, but we have hinted at such fantastic tournaments throughout, and only abstained from broadly asserting their existence in order to spare the feelings and not offend the prejudices of those who had pinned their faith upon the Upper House. At any rate, whether the opposition in the Lords was or was not a sham fight, when matters came to the crisis they did, Lord Cairns and his friends made the most judicious retreat they could. We must, if the force of words as commonly used is to be recognised, still speak of the issue as a retreat and discomfiture of the Lords. The whimsical part of the affair is that the forces of the Upper House were in reality hoisting the white flag, while ostensibly to the spectator the brilliant colours of victory were flaunting from their standard.

The *Dublin Express* summarises the results of the Lords' intervention, adding:—

We may dismiss the mass of amendments which were agreed to by the Commons with Lord Cairns' sarcasm, that they were mainly conversant with the supply of nominative cases for the sentences of the bill. In the few which had a higher significance than a purely grammatical one, the Church, as a body, has little or no interest. The private interests of the tenants under Church leases, for example, are preserved from confiscation—a measure of simple justice, in which all classes and creeds are alike interested. But with this "beggarly display of empty boxes" the Church is presented with 500,000*l.* in lieu of private endowments—the precise sum at which they were originally estimated by Mr. Gladstone, and a lower rate of commutation than that adopted in the cases of Maynooth and the Presbyterian Church. These, be it observed, are the victories of the Lords. Over their defeats we charitably draw a veil.

The *Dublin Mail*, the most strongly pronounced Protestant organ of the three, uses very strong language indeed. In a prominently-printed leader, headed "Sold!" it declares that "Cairns has sold the Irish Church," and speaking of the compromise into which that noble lord entered with the Government, it adds:—

The political result of the contemptible transaction we hail with entire satisfaction. It puts an end, we trust for ever, to the delusion under which the Protestants of Ireland have now for more than seventy years allowed themselves to be dragged at the tail of an English Tory and Jacobite faction. The natural alliance of the English settlers in this country was ever with the Whigs of England. From the epoch of the Great Rebellion, through the Great Revolution, through the short independent life of Ireland from '82 down to the Union, it subsisted. The new and fatal league then formed with the Tories of England was ever disastrous to Ireland as a nation—to Protestant Ireland as an English military colony. It is now, we trust, broken never to be renewed. The betrayal of the Irish Church was conceived by the Ritualist English faction. The first effective movement was made in it by Mr. Disraeli. It has been consummated by Lord Cairns. Towards the end, it was the anti-Tories, Sir Roundell Palmer, Lords Harrowby, Grey, Stanhope, Westbury, Meath, even Earl Russell, who endeavored to moderate the blow. Mr. Trill told the Conservative Peers at Chesterfield House that if the Irish Protestants were abandoned by their English allies, there was an end of the alliance for ever. So let it be.

The Liberal and Roman Catholic organs abstain from all irritating comment. The *Freeman* says:—

We desire not to revel in the hour of triumph, or to sing the hymn of victory over our defeated fellow-countrymen. We have had a signal and a glorious success—not for a party, not for a creed, not for a sect—the triumph was for all Ireland, and as the battle was fought in the name of Christianity, so let the victory be celebrated in a manner worthy of Him whose mission it was to speed "peace on earth and good will to all mankind." Let the past, then, be blotted out, never more to be remembered. Let Protestant and Catholic join hands to-day, as brethren of one common race who have a common country to elevate and to serve, and standing, as they henceforth will, on a platform of equality, let their own rivalry be as to who shall most signally serve this land of ours, and most rapidly efface from it the sorrows and misery, the distrust and divisions, which centuries of hatred and strife have made the prominent social features of the country.

It dwells with reasonable pride on the leading incidents of the great drama which has been so successfully played, and the part taken in it by the member for Kilkeeny, and after contrasting the all but hopeless prospects in 1865 with its rapid and satisfactory denouement, concludes in the following terms:—

To-day let the dead bury their dead, and let no voice of triumph disturb the mourners who surround the bier. To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow, after they shall have returned from the grave of Ascendancy, the grasp of friendship will grasp each brother's hand, and we will all unite to labour to bring peace, and concord, and prosperity to the land of our common love.

The *Northern Whig* is less enthusiastic, but earnest in expressing its pleasure. In the course of an able article on the subject, the *Whig* observes:—

Though we cannot, with Mr. Disraeli, regard all the details of the bill as statesmanlike and satisfactory, we believe that the measure, as a whole, is eminently statesmanlike and satisfactory. To have carried it in the face of such an opposition is a great exploit, and it is but one of many which Mr. Gladstone, aided by intelligent public opinion, has already performed. For him, however, there will be no halting, no resting-place. He is not one inclined to repose on his laurels. Like King William, the Prime Minister will not allow the grass to grow under his feet. The Protestant Episcopalian ascendancy in Ireland is, however, at an end.

The *Evening Post* rejoices in the removal of an obstruction to remedial legislation, industrial and social, which it now expects to be inaugurated without delay. It thus expresses its views:—

The same statesmanship, the same firmness, the same leader, and the same lieutenants will next come to the settlement of other questions, with the light of conquest upon their banners, and with the earnest of not less signal victories than that which has been just won, in their own genius, and in the confidence of the people. The scheme of intimidating or manœuvring the Government into a disclosure of its whole Irish policy has been the most signal miscarriage of the Opposition, as its defeat has been one of the most substantial triumphs of the Liberal majority. The adequacy of constitutional effort to the attainment of the grandest results has been vindicated for even the most sceptical or least informed intelligence, and resort to violence and illegality discredited, we trust, for ever. The results of the great measure of justice, reparation, and healing, which we may now regard as accomplished, cannot be measured, much less realised, upon the instant; but they have already begun to make themselves felt, and will be growing hourly more palpable and more

pervading. The victory has been won for us, not only over the fanaticism and immobility of the Derbys and Marlboroughs, but over the narrow-mindedness, the self-seeking, the exclusiveness, and the mischief-making of the Russells and Greys.

The *Banner of Ulster* admits that many will regret that disendowment leaves the Episcopal Church so much, and the Presbyterian Church so little; but, on the whole, it will be frankly received by the Presbyterian community as a measure of justice and of earnest statesmanship. As an indication of the feelings with which the policy of Mr. Gladstone is regarded by enlightened Roman Catholics, take the following passage from a leading article in the *Cork Reporter* of Saturday:—

After a memorable struggle of seven centuries the conqueror of Ireland has at last arrived in the person of Mr. Gladstone. Justice has melted hearts that cruelty could never terrify. For the first time in the history of Ireland an English Minister is the idol of her people—their trust is placed in an English party. Let that Minister, let that party continue to tread in the noble but arduous path they have chosen; and in a few years Irish discontent will repose in the same grave with the Irish Establishment.

The Bishop of Salisbury's health is said to be greatly improved.

RATHER SHARP.—Mr. Hadfield has given notice that on Friday next he will move—"That in the opinion of the House of Commons, it is expedient to relieve bishops of the Church of England from attendance in Parliament."

THE DEANERY OF DURHAM.—Dr. Waddington, the learned Dean of Durham, died on Tuesday, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. The deanery is worth 3,000*l.* a year. It is said that the vacant post has been offered to Dr. Temple, of Rugby, and one of the *Essayists* and *Reviewers*.

READING.—**BROAD-STREET CHAPEL CHANCERY SUIT.**—The taxed costs of the plaintiffs in the suit of "Cooper v. Gordon," amounting to 275*l.* 17*s.*, have this week been paid by the friends of the Rev. S. C. Gordon. The litigation in this matter may therefore be considered as at an end.—*Berks Chronicle*, 24th July.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAH states that a joint letter from himself and the Archbishop of Dublin was placed in the hands of Lord Cairns, resigning their seats in the House of Lords as Irish prelates, and expressing their confidence that "every bishop on the Irish Bench was equally willing to make the sacrifice, if it could in any way be used to mitigate the calamities of the afflicted and desolated Church."

JEWISH REFORM.—The *Jewish Record* says that the Synod of Jewish Rabbis, which has just been held, has recognised three new principles:—1, Individual authority in religious matters; 2, the primary importance of free scientific investigation; and 3, the rejection of the belief in Israel's restoration. The synod also recommends choral services and the use of the organ in the synagogue, and musical performances on Sabbaths and festivals.

"ALTAR" DENUNCIATION COMPROMISED.—At the Carlow Assizes, on Saturday, the case of Furlong, a National teacher, against Boland, a priest, for slander, was compromised, the defendant paying 200*l.* The plaintiff in his action complained that the defendant denounced him at different altars, praying the curse of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost might fall upon him and accompany him to his death, and that the Almighty then might withhold His mercy.

A BISHOP FOR BURMAH.—A scheme is on foot for erecting a bishopric for Burmah, extending on the north to Upper Assam and the Nargos Territory, on the east to the Chinese province of Yunnan and the Laos country, on the west to Manipoor and Aracan, and on the south to the Gulf of Martaban and the Bay of Bengal. The length of the proposed diocese would be nearly a thousand miles, with an average breadth of 220, and an area of 250,000 square miles.

IRISH CHURCH CONFERENCE.—A requisition is in course of signature at Dublin, asking the Archbishops of Dublin and Armagh to convene the Church Conference again. The *Dublin Evening Mail* advises the immediate assembling of the Church Conference, not to form a Church body, but to make preparations for a new election of representatives from among whom the framers of the new constitution for the Church may ultimately be chosen. In this body, it insists, the laity should be more fully represented than in the existing Church Conference.

DISTURBANCE IN A CHURCH.—A sermon was preached on Friday evening in St. Margaret's Church, Liverpool, by Mr. Bennett, of Frome. The church was densely crowded, the majority evidently having no sympathy with the rev. gentleman. In the course of his sermon Mr. Bennett spoke in very strong terms of Henry VIII., Oliver Cromwell, and William and Mary, and said that the Reformation was the beginning of mischief in the Church, whereupon a large number of the congregation loudly expressed their dissent; and one person rose to his feet and exclaimed, "Out, Protestant Churchmen!" This cry brought several other persons to their feet, and some of them left the church. A number of policemen were introduced to maintain order. The interruption lasted for some time; and when order was restored Mr. Bennett resumed his discourse.—*Globe*.

BITTER TO THE LAST.—The last word of bitterness and defeated spite comes, we regret to add, from the Episcopal Bench, and from no less a personage than the scholarly and refined Archbishop of Dublin. In a brief speech expressing his dissent from the compromise, he compared the leaders of the parties to two murderers shaking hands over the corpse of their victim. We can forgive a great deal to an Archbishop who is about to lose his seat in a great historic chamber, who sees his Church reduced to the rank of equality with a dreaded rival, and thereby loses the

political power and ascendancy which some of the bishops in both countries appear to value far more highly than spiritual influence or moral and religious supremacy. Poor Archbishop! We are glad to forget the dethroned prelate of Dublin and his recent exhibitions of mortified spite, and to think of the larger charity, the fine scholarship and genial wisdom which pervade the poetry and the theological works of the author of the *Hulsean Lectures* and the "Study of Words."—*Inquirer*.

THE ATHANASIAN CREED.—The Rev. W. J. Irons, of Brompton, has come out as a champion of the Athanasian Creed, damnable clauses and all. If, Mr. Irons says, we believe that people will be punished in the next world for not believing the doctrine which this creed contains, how can it be uncharitable—is it not rather the reverse—to tell them so? Furthermore, the rev. gentleman continues (in a letter to the *Morning Post*), "if—which God forbid—any relaxation of the use of this creed be conceded among us, let us remember that we should be far guiltier, and may expect to be visited with far more active confusion, than the Eastern Churches, who never had that creed; and that we shall be leaving the Church of Rome in the advanced position of being the only Church which requires the full truth to be distinctly upheld as to the nature of the glorious God whom we adore. Sir, there was a time—a passing time—when the historian described the crisis of the faith as 'Athanasius contra mundum, et totus mundus contra Athanasium.' It will 'make the ears of every one that heareth to tingle,' if we should live to have it said among the churches that the divine Trinity is henceforth an 'open question' everywhere but in Rome. Yes, and that henceforth as to this divine mystery, it is to be 'Romana ecclesia contra mundum, et totus mundus contra ecclesiam Romanam.'"

THE PRIMATE AND THE VOLUNTARY SYSTEM.—The *Spectator* regrets to acknowledge that the Archbishop of Canterbury on Thursday night really gave some show of plausibility to the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown's suggestion, that he cherishes a sort of desperate loathing of voluntarism, such as St. Paul before his conversion felt for Christianity, and expends that surplus of fanaticism which the conditions of an Establishment do not permit him to exhale in the form of religious heat in political denunciation of the voluntary principle. We are not Voluntarists (the *Spectator* continues), but his Grace of Canterbury's remarks seem to us thoroughly intolerant, and all but indecent in the head of a national Church, who is bound to treat all the less-favoured religions with courtesy. He spoke of those who desire the voluntary principle as "infatuated," and grounded his hope for the future of the disestablished Irish Church entirely on the two facts that it is to retain a moderate endowment, and that "the clergy who will first have to administer the concerns of that Church will have been brought up in a totally different system from the voluntary system." Surely his Grace was almost beside himself? Has he any reason to believe that the first Christian churches were "quite unlike those fostered on the voluntary system"? If not, of course our Lord and His disciples would have utterly "despaired" of them. Or, perhaps, Dr. Tait would despair of all merely spiritual help, although divine, without solid money to back it?

THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL AND THE GREAT POWERS.—The *Post Paris* correspondent says:—"We are told that, according to a table drawn up of the bishops and archbishops who are to have seats at the Ecumenical Council preparing at Rome, the whole number is 922, of whom above 600 belong to the Latin races. All these divines are subjects of the Pope first, and will obey his orders before they listen to the temporal laws of their respective sovereigns and countries. The coming Council is evidently causing much discussion in Germany. All we know in Paris is that the Vatican appears to wish to keep it free from any lay deliberative element. Austria and the Governments of most of the Continental States have agreed to keep as much out of the way as possible—a most wise resolution. The moment any State has relations with Rome, disputes, jealousies, and troubles begin. Continental sovereigns and Governments are tearing up the old Concordats, and the people are desiring to see the influence of the Roman Church confined to spiritual action and interests only. Perhaps the Imperial Government of France and Napoleon III. may consider their position an exceptional one, and entitling them to knock at the door of the Ecumenical Council. The temporal authority of the Sovereign Pontiff is maintained and promised to be maintained for ever by France—at least by the powers of to-day in France. The Papacy is about to legislate surrounded by French bayonets; might not France be expected to be present? Perhaps it would be better not to ask for the honour—permit the old gentlemen of the Vatican (bless their hearts and snuff-boxes!) to arrange the interests of the Church according to their own original and middle-age ideas, only reminding them that in every country there are laws of the State, when they offend the same."

ARCHDEACON DENISON ON THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.—Tuesday was an important day with High Churchmen in Liverpool, on account of the consecration of St. Margaret's Church by the Bishop of Chester. In connection with this ceremony, Archdeacon Denison delivered an address upon the present position of the Church, and contemplating the probability of a severance of its connection with the State. The archdeacon concluded as follows:—"It was no doubt very hard to look forward to the disruption of Church and State, but God's law always gave us compensation, and in this instance He had given us this one great compensation, and while He was drawing us from hanging upon what

was only after all a temporary fulcrum, the connection of the Church with the State, He was leading us to lean on an eternal fulcrum—the vital Church itself. He would hardly dare to stand up before them if he were not ready to say he thought there could be but one issue of the Church being drawn apart from her dependence on the State. He had the unshakable faith that we had received a most precious inheritance. Three hundred years ago the English people said, 'We will have a reformed religion,' and they reformed themselves upon the primitive Church model, recovering that which they had lost through the overlayings of the Church of Rome—the primitive and clear character of the Church. Now, that being what they contended for, if men would contend simply for what was gained at the Reformation, and not for one part only, but for the whole—that if they would do that in faith and charity, and not in striving in a sectarian spirit from morning until night—if they would strive to win over people instead of, as in older times, forcing them over by faggot and sword—they would do much to mitigate the removal of that temporary support which was involved in the severance of the connection of the Church with the State, and throw back the Church upon what was an eternal support, the Church itself."

Religious and Denominational News.

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

The Wesleyan Methodist Conference assembled at Hull this week. The Stationing Committee has already met, and what is called the first draught of the station has been published. A printed copy of this preparatory draught is sent to every minister and the chief officers (the circuit stewards) of each circuit, and ample time is given to both circuits and ministers to ask for changes; the circuits may ask for other ministers, and the ministers may ask for other circuits. The preparatory committees, which were to meet on Monday, are composed of ministers and laymen, but the conference itself is composed of ministers only. In these preparatory committees are reviewed the affairs of week-day and Sabbath-schools, home and foreign missions, the clerical colleges, &c. The Conference proper meets to-morrow. About eighty ministers or probationers will receive ordination.

The committee for the review of educational affairs assembled on Monday in the Conference Chapel, in Great Thornton-street, under the presidency of the Rev. S. Romilly Hall. There was a considerable attendance of influential ministers and laymen from the various districts in the Connexion. The report stated that the number of day-schools is 698, an increase of sixteen; scholars, 119,070, an increase of 8,900; average attendance 77,600, an increase of 4,979. The amount of Government annual grants to Wesleyan schools in 1868 was 32,611*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, being an increase on the amount reported last year of 476*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* Twelve entirely new schools were erected during the year 1868, one was transferred to new buildings, and eight were commenced in existing buildings. The report of Sabbath schools was read by the Rev. J. Clulow, from which it appeared that there were schools 5,328, increase 88; teachers and officers 103,441, increase 723; do. in society or on trial, 77,050, increase 348; scholars, 601,801, increase 19,781; do. in society or on trial, 36,372, decrease 572; do. in select classes, 18,851, increase 1,205; young persons in Bible-classes by ministers or others, 13,015, decrease 2,727. Dr. Osborn moved the first resolution, expressing satisfaction at the success which had attended Wesleyan day and Sunday schools, and recommending the establishment of circuit Sunday school unions, and of connexional inspection, additional to the inspection by the Government; which was carried. A resolution relating to the necessity of the new memorial chapel at Westminster being generally supported, was moved by Sir FRANCIS LYCETT and carried. Mr. W. McARTHUR, M.P., moved—

That it having been reported to the meeting that serious complaints continue to be made from various parts of the connexion of the intolerance of clergymen and others towards children of our congregations whose parents desire them to attend National schools on the week-day and Wesleyan Methodist Sunday schools on the Sabbath, this meeting resolves that the enforcement of an adequate conscience clause in all schools receiving Parliamentary grants for building or maintenance, is essential to the due protection of the religious liberties of the people, and trusts that the Conference will take steps to urge this subject upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

This was seconded by Dr. JAMES, and carried unanimously. The Rev. H. W. HOLLAND moved—

That the committee, recognising the fact that new educational arrangements will probably be proposed by the Government in the next session, earnestly hopes that the Conference will direct its special attention to these subjects.

This, after some conversation, was agreed to. During the discussions which took place upon these different resolutions a variety of opinions upon the subject of education was expressed. There was, however, an evident impression that a national system of education would be proposed by Government probably during the next twelve months, and a desire was pretty generally expressed that the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion should not be altogether unprepared for considering any scheme which might be proposed. The various difficulties in the case were pointed out by different speakers. The resolution of Mr. Holland will call the attention of Conference to the question, when there will, no doubt, be a careful consideration of the whole matter.

Mr. Eustace Earl Long, of Cheshunt College, has accepted a unanimous invitation to become the pastor

THE ENGLISH PRESS ON THE IRISH CHURCH COMPROMISE.

The *Times* says that a settlement of the Irish Church Bill has been effected, which in form will probably be satisfactory to no one, but in fact will be satisfactory to all. No compromise ever did or ever will satisfy all the parties whose interests are affected by it. When history describes the legislative abolition of the Irish Establishment, the courage and practical good sense of Lord Cairns will be held up to the earnest admiration of the student. His resolution to negotiate single-handed with the Ministry was equally bold and wise, and by his boldness and wisdom he warded off great evils from the State. In a subsequent leader the *Times* discusses the consolidation of the Irish Free Church, and thinks it cannot really be so great a loss that the Irish Church has no longer to sustain the hollow pretence of being the Church of the Irish people. That miserable imposture has tainted every title, and honour and dignity, nay, even every virtue and merit, possessed by the Church. Its eloquent preachers, its clever writers, have all suffered the disreputable that they were not really what they pretended to be, and that while they pretended to be shepherds their sheep knew them not and would not hear their voice. This semblance has disappeared. It is true that prospects have been "blighted," as it is called, and expectations have been reduced to sober limits. The long lives of expectants supposed to depend for promotion on episcopal favour or clerical mortality have been disappointed. But every Irishman worth his salt can easily make his way in this country, if only because the circumstances of his Church have naturally directed attention rather to preaching than to what are called pastoral duties. If an Irish clergyman is not a good preacher—and he generally is—he is nothing. It may be readily supposed that a voluntary and self-governing body will not waste much of its funds on bishoprics and stalls. It will soon find either that fewer men can do the work, or that, if the numbers must be kept, they need not be paid quite so handsomely. The *Times* predicts the rise of a better feeling between the Irish clergy and their congregations; that they will see more of each other, and speak more kindly one of another. Moreover, the relations of the other communions cannot but be made easier by the removal of a false assumption which barred friendly approach and made confidence impossible.

The *Daily News* allows that the friendly words which heal discord between the two branches of the Legislature are wisely employed; but relations permanently harmonious between the Lords and the Commons must rest on a basis different from that on which the present settlement has been adjusted.

The *Star*, with the rest, looks to see the joyful consummation of Friday speedily crowned with the fruits of peace, charity, and happiness. It must be speedily followed, moreover, by further beneficent Irish legislation, for which this first success of the great united Liberal party is a happy precedent and omen.

The *Standard's* opinion of the measure is unchanged. The State has repudiated all concern for the religious instruction of the people, and it is small compensation for that repudiation that the disestablished Church has not been sent out upon its new mission absolutely naked and beggared. Yet assuming that disestablishment was inevitable, the conditions of disendowment could hardly, consistently with the principle of the measure, have been more equitable; and one can find a consolation for a defeat which was determined in November by a victory won in July. The Irish Church has gone, but the House of Lords has fully asserted its authority, and asserted its vast superiority in many important respects over the Lower House.

The *Telegraph* is rejoiced to see a forward movement so bold and so difficult once more accomplished in the true old English manner, and by the united powers of the realm. It is all the more rejoiced because, first in order among the future reforms—although second to none in respect of difficulty and importance—will come the great question of the land.

The *Spectator* finds the net result of the peace between the Lords and Commons to be this—that the Ministry have abated their price by an infinitesimal sum to make a loophole for the dignity of the Lords, and the Lords have accepted the loophole with enthusiasm, and crept through it with unaffected joy. This, the *Spectator* remarks, is a profoundly English end to a menacing situation. The English people thoroughly enjoy an all but catastrophe which falls of being a catastrophe because principle breaks down under the strain, and that is what they extol as statesmanship.

The Irish Church Bill, says the *Saturday Review*, has really passed. After so much fierce discussion, after so many perils, it has become law, and this great success is not alloyed either by an access of religious bitterness, or by the imminence of a constitutional conflict, or by a good bill being made a bad bill. A compromise has been effected, but it is not a compromise which in any way goes to the principles of the bill. England has made a great sacrifice to Ireland, and has made it in the only way in which a sacrifice can do good, by making it boldly, generously, and without hesitation. The general result is in every way satisfactory. Disestablishment is complete, and disendowment is complete, excepting that where there was a point, not of principle, but of detail, fairly open to doubt, the leaning has been, as it ought to have been, in favour of the disendowed Church. The unexpected escape of all parties from a position of much embarrassment is mainly due to Lord Cairns. It is true that the Government have shown moderation, judgment, and a conciliatory spirit in the final negotia-

tions; but then they have substantially got all that they wanted, and people who triumph ought to be in a good humour. But Lord Cairns had a very difficult task to perform. He had at once to restate himself in the leadership of his party, which had passed away from him since his defeat on the second reading, and he had to act for and lead his party without consulting it. He acted in the right way at the right moment, and he was rewarded by the applause of men of all parties. Everyone was more or less contented and happy, and the Irish Church Bill was passed, to stand, we trust, as a lasting record of what England is willing to do for Ireland, and of what can be carried in a few months by a strong and resolute Ministry, backed up by a nation anxious to do right and justice at any cost.

The *Economist* thinks that the acceptance of Lord Cairns's compromise by the Government is quite a legitimate occasion for the congratulations which have come from the majority of all parties concerned. It should and happily a long and bitter agitation which was almost getting too trying for the temper of our public men. Extreme partisans on both sides will probably be dissatisfied, but English parties are mainly composed of moderate and almost neutral men, and the more violent members will be discouraged in criticising and opposing the settlement. The country is heartily tired of the controversy, and will hardly mind the few drawbacks, if any, to the completeness of the triumph which has been won for the national policy. The friends of the Irish Church, in the first place, should be very well contented. Detesting the bill as Lord Cairns still says he does, they must know very well that no further fight could be made for their cause—that they had carried resistance to the utmost limits of a fair constitutional struggle, and it had become only a question what shape their defeat would take. When the Government resolved on Tuesday to consult on their future course no one doubted what the end would have been, though the exact measures to be adopted were uncertain. The last moment had come then for making conditions, if an unconditional defeat very soon after was to be averted; but that they have been able to make conditions at all, when the conflict had been carried to so extreme a length, is a success for which they cannot be too grateful. But, secondly, the promoters of the bill may rejoice in their triumph, since after all they have not conceded anything essential. The bill as much as ever disestablishes and disendows the Irish Church—puts an end to Protestant ascendancy, and does not by any trickery re-endow the disestablished body.

The *John Bull* thinks that the importance of the compromise cannot be exaggerated. It may be said that dissatisfaction all round proves how true a compromise it is; but we believe that, as far as asserting the dignity of the House of Lords is concerned, the compromise is in favour of the Constitutional party; for the Peers will think twice before, by their own act, they are compelled to accept such a compromise. But where Lord Cairns has yielded, in our opinion most wrongly, has been in allowing the 68th clause to be altered so as, inferentially at least, to commit the House of Lords to the secularisation of Church revenues. When such a bishop as the prelate who voted with the Government against his brethren on Tuesday, to the inexpressible grief of his best friends, can overlook the importance of maintaining this solemn principle, Lord Cairns may be excused for not seeing that the only principle for which it was possible to contend, after the second reading, was in seeing that double-distilled sacrilege was not sanctioned by the House. How far in the clause it is actually laid down is a question we leave for casuists; but we can assure the noble and learned lord that many peers feel keenly that their solemn pledges have been violated by an arrangement which, however well intended, was not authorised. We cannot hold with many of our friends that the authority of the House of Lords has been jeopardised by Lord Cairns; but a solemn principle has been yielded through sheer inability to appreciate its importance. Instead of gleaming all round, dishing all round seems to be the end of this atrocious bill for robbing the unhappy Irish Church.

THE IRISH PRESS ON THE SETTLEMENT.

The Irish Conservative papers are very angry with the House of Lords on account of their retreat upon the Church disestablishment question. *Southern's News Letter*, one of the most moderate of the party organs, says:—

It remains to be seen how far the position of coerced submission in which noble lords have found themselves may not prejudicially to their House hereafter. The peers naturally were anxious to retain, if not actual power, at least the semblance of it; and so the nation has been called on to witness the imposing drama on which the curtain has just dropped. When questions the natural offspring of Irish Church legislation, and more immediately touching the privileges, perhaps the pockets, of these magnanimous aristocrats, come under discussion, we trust, for its own sake, that the hereditary Chamber may not again indulge in the mere mimicry of war. We feel really pained to speak thus of such exalted personages, but we have hinted at such fantastic tournaments throughout, and only abstained from broadly asserting their existence in order to spare the feelings and not offend the prejudices of those who had pinned their faith upon the Upper House. At any rate, whether the opposition in the Lords was or was not a sham fight, when matters came to the crisis they did, Lord Cairns and his friends made the most judicious retreat they could. We must, if the force of words as commonly used is to be recognised, still speak of the issue as a retreat and discomfiture of the Lords. The whimsical part of the affair is that the forces of the Upper House were in reality hoisting the white flag, while ostensibly to the spectator the brilliant colours of victory were flaunting from their standard.

The *Dublin Express* summarises the results of the Lords' intervention, adding:—

We may dismiss the mass of amendments which were agreed to by the Commons with Lord Cairns' sarcasm, that they were mainly conversant with the supply of nominative cases for the sentences of the bill. In the few which had a higher significance than a purely grammatical one, the Church, as a body, has little or no interest. The private interests of the tenants under Church leases, for example, are preserved from confiscation—a measure of simple justice, in which all classes and creeds are alike interested. But with this "beggary display of empty boxes" the Church is presented with 500,000l. in lieu of private endowments—the precise sum at which they were originally estimated by Mr. Gladstone, and a lower rate of commutation than that adopted in the cases of Maynooth and the Presbyterian Church. These, be it observed, are the victories of the Lords. Over their defeats we charitably draw a veil.

The *Dublin Mail*, the most strongly pronounced Protestant organ of the three, uses very strong language indeed. In a prominently-printed leader, headed "Sold!" it declares that "Cairns has sold the Irish Church," and speaking of the compromise into which that noble lord entered with the Government, it adds:—

The political result of the contemptible transaction we hail with entire satisfaction. It puts an end, we trust for ever, to the delusion under which the Protestants of Ireland have now for more than seventy years allowed themselves to be dragged at the tail of an English Tory and Jacobite faction. The natural alliance of the English settlers in this country was ever with the Whigs of England. From the epoch of the Great Rebellion, through the Great Revolution, through the short independent life of Ireland from '82 down to the Union, it subsisted. The new and fatal league then formed with the Tories of England was ever disastrous to Ireland as a nation—to Protestant Ireland as an English military colony. It is now, we trust, broken never to be renewed. The betrayal of the Irish Church was conceived by the Ritualist English faction. The first effective movement was made in it by Mr. Disraeli. It has been consummated by Lord Cairns. Towards the end, it was the anti-Tories, Sir Roundell Palmer, Lords Harrowby, Grey, Stanhope, Westbury, Meath, even Earl Russell, who endeavoured to moderate the blow. Mr. Traill told the Conservative Peers at Chesterfield House that if the Irish Protestants were abandoned by their English allies, there was an end of the alliance for ever. So let it be.

The Liberal and Roman Catholic organs abstain from all irritating comment. The *Freeman* says:—

We desire not to revel in the hour of triumph, or to sing the hymn of victory over our defeated fellow-countrymen. We have had a signal and a glorious success—not for a party, not for a creed, not for a sect—the triumph was for all Ireland, and as the battle was fought in the name of Christianity, so let the victory be celebrated in a manner worthy of Him whose mission it was to speed "peace on earth and good will to all mankind." Let the past, then, be blotted out, never more to be remembered. Let Protestant and Catholic join hands to-day, as brethren of one common race who have a common country to elevate and to serve, and standing, as they henceforth will, on a platform of equality, let their own rivalry be as to who shall most signally serve this land of ours, and most rapidly efface from it the sorrows and misery, the distrust and divisions, which centuries of hatred and strife have made the prominent social features of the country.

It dwells with reasonable pride on the leading incidents of the great drama which has been so successfully played, and the part taken in it by the member for Kilkenny, and after contrasting the all but hopeless prospects in 1866 with its rapid and satisfactory development, concludes in the following terms:—

To-day let the dead bury their dead, and let no voice of triumph disturb the mourners who surround the bier. To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow, after they shall have returned from the grave of Ascendancy, the grasp of friendship will grasp each brother's hand, and we will all unite to labour to bring peace, and concord, and prosperity to the land of our common love.

The *Northern Whig* is less enthusiastic, but earnest in expressing its pleasure. In the course of an able article on the subject, the *Whig* observes:—

Though we cannot, with Mr. Disraeli, regard all the details of the bill as statesmanlike and satisfactory, we believe that the measure, as a whole, is eminently statesmanlike and satisfactory. To have carried it in the face of such an opposition is a great exploit, and it is but one of many which Mr. Gladstone, aided by intelligent public opinion, has already performed. For him, however, there will be no halting, no resting-place. He is not one inclined to repose on his laurels. Like King William, the Prime Minister will not allow the grass to grow under his feet. The Protestant Episcopalian ascendancy in Ireland is, however, at an end.

The *Evening Post* rejoices in the removal of an obstruction to remedial legislation, industrial and social, which it now expects to be inaugurated without delay. It thus expresses its views:—

The same statesmanship, the same firmness, the same leader, and the same lieutenants will next come to the settlement of other questions, with the light of conquest upon their banners, and with the earnest of not less signal victories than that which has been just won, in their own genius, and in the confidence of the people. The scheme of intimidating or manœuvring the Government into a disclosure of its whole Irish policy has been the most signal miscarriage of the Opposition, as its defeat has been one of the most substantial triumphs of the Liberal majority. The adequacy of constitutional effort to the attainment of the grandest results has been vindicated for even the most sceptical or least informed intelligence, and resort to violence and illegality discredited, we trust, for ever. The results of the great measure of justice, reparation, and healing, which we may now regard as accomplished, cannot be measured, much less realised, upon the instant; but they have already begun to make themselves felt, and will be growing hourly more palpable and more

pervading. The victory has been won for us, not only over the fanaticism and immobility of the Derbys and Marlboroughs, but over the narrow-mindedness, the self-seeking, the exclusiveness, and the mischief-making of the Russells and Greys.

The *Banner of Ulster* admits that many will regret that disendowment leaves the Episcopal Church so much, and the Presbyterian Church so little; but, on the whole, it will be frankly received by the Presbyterian community as a measure of justice and of earnest statesmanship. As an indication of the feelings with which the policy of Mr. Gladstone is regarded by enlightened Roman Catholics, take the following passage from a leading article in the *Cork Reporter* of Saturday:—

After a memorable struggle of seven centuries the conqueror of Ireland has at last arrived in the person of Mr. Gladstone. Justice has melted hearts that cruelty could never terrify. For the first time in the history of Ireland an English Minister is the idol of her people—their trust is placed in an English party. Let that Minister, let that party continue to tread in the noble but arduous path they have chosen; and in a few years Irish discontent will repose in the same grave with the Irish Establishment.

The Bishop of Salisbury's health is said to be greatly improved.

RATHER SHARP.—Mr. Hadfield has given notice that on Friday next he will move—"That in the opinion of the House of Commons, it is expedient to relieve bishops of the Church of England from attendance in Parliament."

THE DEANERY OF DURHAM.—Dr. Waddington, the learned Dean of Durham, died on Tuesday, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. The deanery is worth 3,000*l.* a year. It is said that the vacant post has been offered to Dr. Temple, of Rugby, and one of the Essayists and Reviewers.

READING.—**BROAD-STREET CHAPEL CHANCERY SUIT.**—The taxed costs of the plaintiffs in the suit of "Cooper v. Gordon," amounting to 27*5*l.** 17*s.*, have this week been paid by the friends of the Rev. S. C. Gordon. The litigation in this matter may therefore be considered as at an end.—*Berks Chronicle*, 24th July.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAH states that a joint letter from himself and the Archbishop of Dublin was placed in the hands of Lord Cairns, resigning their seats in the House of Lords as Irish prelates, and expressing their confidence that "every bishop on the Irish Bench was equally willing to make the sacrifice, if it could in any way be used to mitigate the calamities of the afflicted and desolated Church."

JEWISH REFORM.—The *Jewish Record* says that the Synod of Jewish Rabbis, which has just been held, has recognised three new principles:—1, Individual authority in religious matters; 2, the primary importance of free scientific investigation; and 3, the rejection of the belief in Israel's restoration. The synod also recommends choral services and the use of the organ in the synagogue, and musical performances on Sabbaths and festivals.

"ALTAR" DENUNCIATION COMPROMISED.—At the Carlow Assizes, on Saturday, the case of Furlong, a National teacher, against Boland, a priest, for slander, was compromised, the defendant paying 200*l.* The plaintiff in his action complained that the defendant denounced him at different altars, praying the curse of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost might fall upon him and accompany him to his death, and that the Almighty then might withhold His mercy.

A BISHOP FOR BURMAH.—A scheme is on foot for erecting a bishopric for Burmah, extending on the north to Upper Assam and the Nargos Territory, on the east to the Chinese province of Yunnan and the Laos country, on the west to Munipoor and Aracan, and on the south to the Gulf of Martaban and the Bay of Bengal. The length of the proposed diocese would be nearly a thousand miles, with an average breadth of 220, and an area of 250,000 square miles.

IRISH CHURCH CONFERENCE.—A requisition is in course of signature at Dublin, asking the Archbishops of Dublin and Armagh to convene the Church Conference again. The *Dublin Evening Mail* advises the immediate assembling of the Church Conference, not to form a Church body, but to make preparations for a new election of representatives from among whom the framers of the new constitution for the Church may ultimately be chosen. In this body, it insists, the laity should be more fully represented than in the existing Church Conference.

DISTURBANCE IN A CHURCH.—A sermon was preached on Friday evening in St. Margaret's Church, Liverpool, by Mr. Bennett, of Frome. The church was densely crowded, the majority evidently having no sympathy with the rev. gentleman. In the course of his sermon Mr. Bennett spoke in very strong terms of Henry VIII., Oliver Cromwell, and William and Mary, and said that the Reformation was the beginning of mischief in the Church, whereupon a large number of the congregation loudly expressed their dissent; and one person rose to his feet and exclaimed, "Out, Protestant Churchmen!" This cry brought several other persons to their feet, and some of them left the church. A number of policemen were introduced to maintain order. The interruption lasted for some time; and when order was restored Mr. Bennett resumed his discourse.—*Globe*.

BITTER TO THE LAST.—The last word of bitterness and defeated spite comes, we regret to add, from the Episcopal Bench, and from no less a personage than the scholarly and refined Archbishop of Dublin. In a brief speech expressing his dissent from the compromise, he compared the leaders of the parties to two murderers shaking hands over the corpse of their victim. We can forgive a great deal to an Archbishop who is about to lose his seat in a great historic chamber, who sees his Church reduced to the rank of equality with a dreaded rival, and thereby loses the

political power and ascendancy which some of the bishops in both countries appear to value far more highly than spiritual influence or moral and religious supremacy. Poor Archbishop! We are glad to forget the dethroned prelate of Dublin and his recent exhibitions of mortified spite, and to think of the larger charity, the fine scholarship and genial wisdom which pervade the poetry and the theological works of the author of the Hulsean Lectures and the "Study of Words."—*Inquirer*.

THE ATHANASIAN CREED.—The Rev. W. J. Irons, of Brompton, has come out as a champion of the Athanasian Creed, damatory clauses and all. If, Mr. Irons says, we believe that people will be punished in the next world for not believing the doctrine which this creed contains, how can it be uncharitable—is it not rather the reverse—to tell them so? Furthermore, the rev. gentleman continues (in a letter to the *Morning Post*), "if—which God forbid—any relaxation of the use of this creed be conceded among us, let us remember that we should be far guiltier, and may expect to be visited with far more active confusion, than the Eastern Churches, who never had that creed; and that we shall be leaving the Church of Rome in the advanced position of being the only Church which requires the full truth to be distinctly upheld as to the nature of the glorious God whom we adore. Sir, there was a time—a passing time—when the historian described the crisis of the faith as 'Athanasius contra mundum, et totus mundus contra Athanasium.' It will 'make the ears of every one that heareth to tingle,' if we should live to have it said among the churches that the divine Trinity is henceforth an 'open question' everywhere but in Rome. Yes, and that henceforth as to this divine mystery, it is to be 'Romana ecclesia contra mundum, et totus mundus contra ecclesiam Romanam.'"

THE PRIMACY AND THE VOLUNTARY SYSTEM.—The *Spectator* regrets to acknowledge that the Archbishop of Canterbury on Thursday night really gave some show of plausibility to the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown's suggestion, that he cherishes a sort of desperate loathing of voluntarism, such as St. Paul before his conversion felt for Christianity, and expends that surplus of fanaticism which the conditions of an Establishment do not permit him to exhale in the form of religious heat in political denunciation of the voluntary principle. We are not Voluntarists (the *Spectator* continues), but his Grace of Canterbury's remarks seem to us thoroughly intolerant, and all but indecent in the head of a national Church, who is bound to treat all the less-favoured religions with courtesy. He spoke of those who desire the voluntary principle as "infatuated," and grounded his hope for the future of the disestablished Irish Church entirely on the two facts that it is to retain a moderate endowment, and that "the clergy who will first have to administer the concerns of that Church will have been brought up in a totally different system from the voluntary system." Surely his Grace was almost beside himself? Has he any reason to believe that the first Christian churches were "quite unlike those fostered on the voluntary system"? If not, of course our Lord and His disciples would have utterly "despaired" of them. Or, perhaps, Dr. Tait would despair of all merely spiritual help, although divine, without solid money to back it?

THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL AND THE GREAT POWERS.—The *Post Paris* correspondent says:—"We are told that, according to a table drawn up of the bishops and archbishops who are to have seats at the Ecumenical Council preparing at Rome, the whole number is 922, of whom above 600 belong to the Latin races. All these divines are subjects of the Pope first, and will obey his orders before they listen to the temporal laws of their respective sovereigns and countries. The coming Council is evidently causing much discussion in Germany. All we know in Paris is that the Vatican appears to wish to keep it free from any lay deliberative element. Austria and the Governments of most of the Continental States have agreed to keep as much out of the way as possible—a most wise resolution. The moment any State has relations with Rome, disputes, jealousies, and troubles begin. Continental sovereigns and Governments are tearing up the old Concordats, and the people are desiring to see the influence of the Roman Church confined to spiritual action and interests only. Perhaps the Imperial Government of France and Napoleon III. may consider their position an exceptional one, and entitling them to knock at the door of the Ecumenical Council. The temporal authority of the Sovereign Pontiff is maintained and promised to be maintained for ever by France—at least by the powers of to-day in France. The Papacy is about to legislate surrounded by French bayonets; might not France be expected to be present? Perhaps it would be better not to ask for the honour—permit the old gentlemen of the Vatican (bless their hearts and snuff-boxes!) to arrange the interests of the Church according to their own original and middle-age ideas, only reminding them that in every country there are laws of the State, when they offend the same."

ARCHDEACON DENISON ON THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.—Tuesday was an important day with High Churchmen in Liverpool, on account of the consecration of St. Margaret's Church by the Bishop of Chester. In connection with this ceremony, Archdeacon Denison delivered an address upon the present position of the Church, and contemplating the probability of a severance of its connection with the State. The archdeacon concluded as follows:—"It was no doubt very hard to look forward to the disruption of Church and State, but God's law always gave us compensation, and in this instance He had given us this one great compensation, and while He was drawing us from hanging upon what

was only after all a temporary fulcrum, the connection of the Church with the State, He was leading us to lean on an eternal fulcrum—the vital Church itself. He would hardly dare to stand up before them if he were not ready to say he thought there could be but one issue of the Church being drawn apart from her dependence on the State. He had the unshakable faith that we had received a most precious inheritance. Three hundred years ago the English people said, 'We will have a reformed religion,' and they reformed themselves upon the primitive Church model, recovering that which they had lost through the overlappings of the Church of Rome—the primitive and clear character of the Church. Now, that being what they contended for, if men would contend simply for what was gained at the Reformation, and not for one part only, but for the whole—that if they would do that in faith and charity, and not in striving in a sectarian spirit from morning until night—if they would strive to win over people instead of, as in olden times, forcing them over by faggot and sword—they would do much to mitigate the removal of that temporary support which was involved in the severance of the connection of the Church with the State, and throw back the Church upon what was an eternal support, the Church itself."

Religious and Denominational News.

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

The Wesleyan Methodist Conference assembles at Hull this week. The Stationing Committee has already met, and what is called the first draught of the station has been published. A printed copy of this preparatory draught is sent to every minister and the chief officers (the circuit stewards) of each circuit, and ample time is given to both circuits and ministers to ask for changes; the circuits may ask for other ministers, and the ministers may ask for other circuits. The preparatory committees, which were to meet on Monday, are composed of ministers and laymen, but the conference itself is composed of ministers only. In these preparatory committees are reviewed the affairs of week-day and Sabbath-schools, home and foreign missions, the clerical colleges, &c. The Conference proper meets to-morrow. About eighty ministers or probationers will receive ordination.

The committee for the review of educational affairs assembled on Monday in the Conference Chapel, in Great Thornton-street, under the presidency of the Rev. S. Romilly Hall. There was a considerable attendance of influential ministers and laymen from the various districts in the Connexion. The report stated that the number of day-schools is 698, an increase of sixteen; scholars, 119,070, an increase of 8,900; average attendance 77,600, an increase of 4,979. The amount of Government annual grants to Wesleyan schools in 1868 was 32,611*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, being an increase on the amount reported last year of 476*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* Twelve entirely new schools were erected during the year 1868, one was transferred to new buildings, and eight were commenced in existing buildings. The report of Sabbath schools was read by the Rev. J. Clulow, from which it appeared that there were schools 5,328, increase 88; teachers and officers 103,441, increase 723; do. in society or on trial, 77,050, increase 348; scholars, 601,801, increase 19,781; do. in society or on trial, 36,372, decrease 572; do. in select classes, 18,861, increase 1,205; young persons in Bible-classes by ministers or others, 13,015, decrease 2,727. Dr. Osborn moved the first resolution, expressing satisfaction at the success which had attended Wesleyan day and Sunday schools, and recommending the establishment of circuit Sunday school unions, and of connexional inspection, additional to the inspection by the Government; which was carried. A resolution relating to the necessity of the new memorial chapel at Westminster being generally supported, was moved by Sir FRANCIS LYONET and carried. Mr. W. McARTHUR, M.P., moved—

That it having been reported to the meeting that serious complaints continue to be made from various parts of the connexion of the intolerance of clergymen and others towards children of our congregations whose parents desire them to attend National schools on the week-day and Wesleyan Methodist Sunday schools on the Sabbath, this meeting resolves that the enforcement of an adequate conscience clause in all schools receiving Parliamentary grants for building or maintenance, is essential to the due protection of the religious liberties of the people, and trusts that the Conference will take steps to urge this subject upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

This was seconded by Dr. JAMES, and carried unanimously. The Rev. H. W. HOLLAND moved—

That the committee, recognising the fact that new educational arrangements will probably be proposed by the Government in the next session, earnestly hopes that the Conference will direct its special attention to these subjects.

This, after some conversation, was agreed to. During the discussions which took place upon these different resolutions a variety of opinions upon the subject of education was expressed. There was, however, an evident impression that a national system of education would be proposed by Government probably during the next twelve months, and a desire was pretty generally expressed that the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion should not be altogether unprepared for considering any scheme which might be proposed. The various difficulties in the case were pointed out by different speakers. The resolution of Mr. Holland will call the attention of Conference to the question, when there will, no doubt, be a careful consideration of the whole matter.

Mr. Eustace Earl Long, of Cheahunt College, has accepted a unanimous invitation to become the pastor

of the church and congregation assembling in the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, East Grinstead, Sussex.

The Rev. J. Oswald Dykes, who was for several years colleague of Dr. Candlish, of Edinburgh, is likely to receive a call to become the pastor of the Regent-square Presbyterian Church, London. Calls had, it may be remembered, been given to two ministers of the Free Church to fill the vacancy caused by the lamented death of Dr. James Hamilton, but they were declined in both cases.

Teddington.—The memorial-stone of a Free Church has been laid at Teddington by Lord Ebury, in the presence of 700 people. The Rev. J. Sugden, B.A., a well-known Congregationalist, is the pastor. The promoters of this movement originally attended the parish church, but disapproving of certain doctrines and forms of worship introduced by the vicar, and having made a fruitless application to the Bishop of London to sanction the formation of a district, they left the parish church, eventually formed themselves into a Free Church, and invited Mr. Sugden to become their minister. The church is to seat 800 persons without galleries. The portion at present commenced is the west end of nave and aisles, with seats for nearly 500 persons, with temporary east and base of tower. The Rev. Dr. Ferguson, the Rev. T. E. Thoresby, the Rev. George Jones, Mr. T. L. Wilson, and Mr. H. E. Balbiac, took part in the proceedings.

BISHOP OF LONDON'S FUND.—A general meeting of the board which controls the operation of this fund was held on Tuesday, at 36A, Pall-mall, under the presidency of the bishop of the diocese. There was a large attendance. The principal business of the meeting was the reading of the report of the executive committee, which stated that the society had now been in existence six years, and the amount actually received up to the 30th of June, 1869, was 310,000*l.* If the amount promised were added, the grand total would amount to 380,000*l.* The receipts for the past half-year were 25,636*l.* Out of this a grant of 7,480*l.* had been made for churches, 1,528*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for schools or school churches, 200*l.* for parsonages, and 1,059*l.* for sites, special cases, and contingencies. Lord Sandon moved, and Lord Egerton seconded, the adoption of the report, which was carried after a short discussion.

WATERHEAD MILL, LANCASHIRE.—On Saturday afternoon the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of a new chapel was performed at Waterhead Mill, Lancashire, intended for the congregation worshipping at Providence School. There was a large muster of scholars, teachers, and friends. The stone was laid by Mr. James Newton, J.P., and prayer was offered by the Rev. John Hodgson, who, in the absence of the Rev. Mr. Parkinson, of Rochdale, through indisposition, read an address referring principally to the history of Nonconformity. After the laying of the foundation-stone the procession reformed and the party proceeded to the Co-operative Hall, Huddersfield-road, where they sat down to tea. Afterward the Mayor took the chair, and was supported by the Revs. A. Phillips, J. Bryan, and J. Hodgson; Messrs. J. Newton, Atherton, Fletcher, J. E. Newton, T. Wheeler, J. W. Needham, &c. The chapel is to be an elegant structure, in the Italian style of architecture, and will seat 600 worshippers, and is estimated to cost 2,100*l.* The site is freehold; the amount given and promised is about 1,555*l.*, including 400*l.* kindly granted by the Lancashire New Chapel Building Committee.

CROSS-STREET CHAPEL, ISLINGTON.—The fifth anniversary of the settlement of the Rev. Clement Bailhache was recently held at the above chapel, the pastor presiding. Very hearty and cordial congratulations were expressed by several of the deacons and members who took part in the proceedings, all of whom bore strong testimony to the high estimation in which they hold the ministry of Mr. Bailhache. All the numerous institutions connected with the place appear to be carried on with great vigour, and it was reported that by the continued effort made during the year, the debt on the chapel was now reduced to 400*l.*, the sum of 1,100*l.* having been raised during four years. It was now resolved that the remaining debt might rest for a time, and a new effort be entered upon at once for the general improvement and repairs of the schoolroom and chapel. For this purpose a sum of 400*l.* will be required, and it is anticipated that the results will not only secure a very improved appearance in the buildings, but greatly add to the comfort of the minister and congregation as well as of the teachers and scholars. We understand that over 100*l.* were immediately promised, and it is expected that the work will be commenced in August.

BATH.—Kensington Chapel, long the scene of the Rev. Dr. Winslow's labours in Bath, lately reverted to the Episcopal Church. In consequence of this change, Dr. Winslow removed to Brighton, and his people were left without a pastor or a place of worship. In this emergency application was made to Dr. Leechman, a member of the Kensington congregation, then living in retirement on account of impaired health. He felt constrained to do what he could. On the last Lord's day in 1867 a hall was opened for Divine service in the assembly-rooms. Since that time public worship has been conducted there, and the congregation thus formed has met with encouraging success. It was decided to erect a new place of worship, and an eligible site in a line with Fountains-buildings, in the upper part of the city, was purchased from the corporation for erecting a chapel to seat at present 500 persons. The foundation-stone was laid on the 7th inst. by Dr. Leechman, who said it would be an open-communion Baptist church. Mr. E. G. Smith, the treasurer, said that the plans of the building had been framed with a

view to what was chaste without unnecessary outlay, and the contracts amounted to 1,605*l.* The subscriptions, with the exception of about 80*l.*, had been raised in Bath, the total sum received being upwards of 860*l.* During the day the sum of 81*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* was received, including 25*l.* from the former congregation of Dr. Leechman, at Hammersmith, 21*l.* from Mr. Bligh (who promised a similar donation if required), and 15*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* laid upon the stone.

LONDON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting of the association was held on the 13th inst., at Lee and Lewisham-road Chapels. In the morning the ministers met at Lee Chapel, when two excellent papers were read, one by the Rev. J. D. Williams on "Our Association," and the other by the Rev. D. Gracey, theological tutor, Metropolitan Tabernacle College, on "Precision in Doctrine." Thanks were given to the writers of these papers. After dinner, there was the usual quarterly meeting of the pastors and delegates, at which the following resolution was passed:—

That this meeting believes that the Irish Church Bill, as it left the House of Commons, was founded in justice, and was eminently calculated to promote the social order and religious prosperity of Ireland; it has therefore heard with deep regret that the House of Lords has adopted amendments which violate the fundamental principles of the bill, and it earnestly and respectfully entreats her Majesty's Government, and the Liberal majority, to use their utmost endeavours to maintain the bill in its integrity, and to yield to no compromise, but to urge on this great and just measure until it shall become the law of the land.

It was also resolved that the officers of the association—the Revs. C. H. Spurgeon, W. G. Lewis, S. W. Booth, and J. Harvey, Esq.—be a deputation to present this resolution to Mr. Gladstone. Accordingly, the deputation had an interview with Mr. Gladstone on Thursday week, in common with the Baptist Union and many other deputations. Tea was provided at Lewisham-road Chapel, and an evening service was held, at which the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, president of the Association, preached.

Correspondence.

LONDON UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.—A DEFENCE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Silence is sometimes the most powerful answer that can be given to certain statements or "protests," but to be silent in the case of "M.A. London," would be to allow the truth of his remarks, which, as a graduate of the London University (and one who is proud of being such), I, together I am sure with many others, should be most unwilling to do. To answer fully "M.A.'s" letter would occupy too much space, and therefore a hasty reply must suffice.

"M.A." exhibits a table showing the percentage of failures since the opening of the University in 1828, and that this percentage has increased very largely of late years, being the greatest this year.

Now, of course, as the number of candidates has so much increased, it is only likely that the failures will be more too. To what are the failures to be attributed? Certainly not necessarily to the difficulty of the papers. It is to be remembered that these numbers have much increased since the throwing of the University open for degrees. Men have gone up ill-prepared, having studied by themselves, without properly knowing the "quality" of work required. "M.A." goes on most unjustly to say that "the principle of the London Senate is to pluck everybody, if possible." By no means, we reply; but it is its principle, and one upon which to pride itself, that none shall become a member of the University who has not undergone a sufficiently rigid examination, and proved himself worthy of becoming such. And so far from these failures being likely to exert an injurious influence upon "masters and pupils," they will rather produce a beneficial result, inasmuch as it will be seen that it is only by thorough "drill" on the one hand, and hard work and application on the other, that a candidate can take a good position, or even pass. "M.A." enumerates a long list of subjects in which a candidate has to pass, but then he surely knows in how small a space some half-a-dozen of them are comprised.

While making the above remarks in defence of this examination, with its "severe," "cruel," and at last "barbarous" (!) results, we are willing to admit our desire that the Senate would listen to an oft-repeated request to give an option between Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, and that the former of these papers should be framed rather more simply than at times it is. Had "M.A." had the opportunity of seeing what some others of us have seen during the last few years, his surprise at the failures would be considerably lessened.

So far from the vote of 6,000*l.* being withdrawn, we think it ought to be doubled, as our University stands up for thorough work, and degrees obtained as the result of a sifting examination.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A LONDON GRADUATE.

A PROTEST FROM "MARK-LANE."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Corn-dealers from Mark-lane have had much to try them during the last twelve months; what with sinking markets and bad debts they have had anything but "a good time." However, they have endured it; but now comes "the unkindest cut of all." In your

article last week on the "Bishops and the Bill" they are put in comparison with the bishops. Surely this is too bad; at least it appears so to one of the body, who trusts that you will reconsider your simile, and do justice to a body of men who hope they are not to be classed for greed and rapacity with (so-called) right reverend fathers in God. Personally owing much to your labours for the last twenty-five years, I subscribe myself—

Yours faithfully,

A CORN-DEALER FROM MARK-LANE.
July 26, 1869.

"WHO PAYS THE PIPER?"

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The enclosed letter may be deemed worthy of republication in your trusty journal. "John Styles," however, does not say all that might be said on the subject:—

1. The clergy of our parish church alone have received above 9*l.* for marriages during the last six months, and this from rates levied for the support of the poor!

2. The other churches in the parish of Halifax together received 7*l.* last quarter. This also from the poor-rates!

3. This shameful exaction is made by every church (of the Establishment) in the country, under cover, of course, of the Marriage Registration Act.

4. For each sixpence so paid, the clergyman is expected to fill up a certificate. But why charge this sum to a rate for the relief of the poor? In Dissenting chapels the cost of the certificate, written by the Registrar, is paid by the persons who are married, and they have the option of declining the certificate.

For the "poor fishermen" of our goodly parish the poor-rate has been taxed to the tune of 46*l.* during the past year; and your readers may therefore put to themselves the question, How much, in this particular, have the parishes of "all England" paid to their clerical paupers during twelve months?

The Reform League has been dissolved, but the "Liberation Society" has yet much work to perform.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS MICHAEL.

Halifax, July 26, 1869.

[The following is the letter referred to by our correspondent:—]

To the Editor of the Halifax Courier.

SIR,—We have had some new applications lately, inside the House and out of it, of the parable of the loaves and fishes; and of clerical fishing in general. The larger the haul the better, but on the principle that "all's fish that comes to the net," even the smallest fry are not rejected. I wonder how many of your readers are aware of the fact that, for every marriage celebrated in the Established Church, the sum of sixpence is paid to the clergyman of the parish out of the poor-rate. The amount last paid from this source for marriages in the church during the previous six months was upwards of nine pounds. Since there is no doubt whatever as to the accuracy of this:—

"1. Is it not too bad that I, poor John Styles—who had my own marriage fees to pay at the chapel I go to, should be taxed to find sixpence for the parson when rich Squire Nabob may be spliced?"

"2. Is it not too hard that I, a poor man, should be taxed for the relief of the poor; and under the name of poor-tax should pay a kind of church-rate?"

"3. Would it not be more honest for the fishermen who need it to apply for parochial relief in the usual way?"

"4. Are not these poor fishermen who receive parish relief out of the poor-rate thereby disqualified for voting at our borough election?"

"5. Would it not be well for every John Styles (we are a very large family) who has recently paid his poor-rate to take care at some future election to vote for an extension of the principle of disestablishment and disendowment?"

"I am, yours very respectfully,

"JOHN STYLES.

"21st July, 1869."

REV. DR. MASSINGHAM AT BLACKPOOL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you permit me to lay before the public the latest example of the unscrupulous manner in which a certain class of clerical political agitators are in the habit of dealing with facts?

On Monday evening last, the Rev. Dr. Massingham, of Warrington, appeared at a public meeting in this town, convened to hear speeches from himself and the two local ministers of the Established Church, with a view to elicit from this community a protest and petition against the Irish Church Bill, and also against the endowment of Popery. At the close of Dr. Massingham's speech, questions were invited; and accordingly Mr. Warburton, of Manchester (like Dr. Massingham, a visitor to Blackpool), briefly interrogated the rev. gentleman. The answers of Dr. Massingham were simply astounding; but by the rules which had been laid down from the chair, I was precluded from asking more than one of the many questions by which the Doctor's evasions and errors might have been exposed on the spot. The query which I selected to put, and which I succeeded in putting although a futile attempt was made to prevent me, had reference to Dr. Massingham's monstrous assertion that the Duke of Argyll was one of the chief supporters of, and a voter for, the pestilent policy of concurrent endowment. I asked Dr. Massingham if he would venture to repeat that assertion. In reply, he denied having said that the Duke voted for the "concurrent" endowment scheme. To confirm this

statement, he said the Duke had, in the House of Lords, on June 11th, expressed himself as of the opinion that "the system of indiscriminate endowment of Churches was far better than a National Established Church." The rules of the meeting, already referred to, did not allow of my putting a second question, but I passed a private note to Dr. Massingham, requesting him to favour me with the name and date of the newspaper in which his quotation from the Duke's speech was to be found. He said he would show me the paper if I would call upon him next morning; and accordingly, accompanied by the Rev. J. Wayman, of this town, and the Rev. Frederick Timmis, of Halifax, I went at the appointed time to receive the promised enlightenment. You may imagine my astonishment when Dr. Massingham produced a paper entitled the *Ecclesiastical Gazette*, of date July 18th, and pointed to its brief summary of the Duke's famous speech of June 18th against indiscriminate endowment. The sentence in the speech on which the Doctor based his statement ran thus:—"A system of indiscriminate endowment of Churches is less defensible than a National Established Church." Pointing me to that sentence, Dr. Massingham maintained the accuracy of his assertion of the night previous; but on being pressed to read the sentence over again, and on having a verbatim report of the Duke's speech placed before him, the Doctor was ultimately obliged to own that what he had stated was not consistent with the facts of the case.

I leave the public to judge what must be the character and the extremity of a cause which resorts to such discreditable tactics. Dr. Massingham's speech at Blackpool was full of assertions of the same complexion as the one which I have proved to be unfounded. Fortunately, and to the credit of this town, he and his colleagues did not succeed in effecting their purpose; for when their motion to petition against the Irish Church Bill was put from the chair, it was negatived by a very decided majority.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WM. HOWIE WYLIE.

Blackpool, July 21, 1869.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

On Thursday the Commons' amendments to the Lords' amendments to the Irish Church Bill were further considered.

Lord GRANVILLE moved that the House do not insist on its amendment in Clause 2 and elsewhere of May, 1871, for January, 1871. Thereupon,

Lord CAIRNS stated that a conference had been held since Tuesday between himself and Lord GRANVILLE, and that the result had been an understanding that the questions in dispute were by no means incapable of solution. He should not insist on the date. On the point of the liability of incumbents for the salaries of curates he could not consent to the amendment of the Commons as it stood, but his objection would now be in some measure removed by the offer of the Government to confine the liability to the case where the curate had been employed for five years, in connection with certain other limitations. Next came the scale of commutation. In place of the plan comprised in Lord Carnarvon's amendment for a compulsory general commutation at fourteen years' valuation, the Commons had devised a scheme of diocesan commutation, and had added a sum of 7 per cent. to the amount of the annuities. There were grave objections to this arrangement; but they had been met partially by the readiness of the Government to add another 5 per cent., and to make the acceptance of three-fourths instead of four-fifths of the clergy of a diocese for a commutation sufficient. The Government had also agreed to except from the commutation any residence and land in an incumbent's own occupation, if the incumbent should so desire. He understood, indeed, that the Government still refused any concession on the point of the building charges on glebe-houses, and he expressed his concern at this; but, as the sum at issue, after the last-mentioned concession, was scarcely more than 100,000*l.*, he was not prepared to advise the House to hold out on such a question. Lastly, not to dwell on more trifling matters, there was the question of the disposal of the surplus. The Government, on this point, had consented to amend Clause 68, to the effect that it should provide for the employment of the surplus for the relief of unavoidable calamity, and in such manner as Parliament should hereafter direct. He concluded by apologising for having entered on such a negotiation without the express authorisation of his party, and by intimating his own opinion, much as he disliked the whole bill, that concessions were preferable to leaving the whole controversy in suspense for months.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY admitted that the sum of 500,000*l.* offered by the Government in substitution for private endowments was a very favourable bargain for the Church, and would go some way to make up for the refusal of the Government to concede the Ulster glebes. His Grace went on to say:—

I still regard the sacrifice of an Established Church as a great misfortune. (Cheers.) I hold as strongly as

ever that the right policy for Ireland would have been to maintain the Established Church there in moderate proportions, and to give the people of Ireland the benefit which the sanction of religion by the State must confer upon a nation. (Cheers.) To say anything more, however, on that point, would be to go back to the principle of the second reading of the bill and to call in question the decision of the House. But when the Established Church was gone it still remained for us to consider whether we not to endeavour, as much as possible, to maintain an endowed Church, and I am thankful to believe that, by some means or other—not in name, because we are not allowed to mention such a thing as endowment—we shall be able to maintain an endowed Church of a very moderate character. Those endowments, I grant, may be small, and the Church will have great difficulties to contend with; but I regard the possession of these endowments as a matter of great importance for the religious, social, and political well-being of Ireland. (Cheers.) The evil of an unendowed clergy is confessed by all, and I will not trouble your lordships with statements as to that evil, but I will read one or two extracts which I trust at this time may not be without effect on any who are so infatuated as to desire that we should adopt the voluntary principle altogether in Ireland as in England. By the voluntary principle I mean the entire dependence of the clergy on the offerings of the people. I hold in my hand the opinion of a Roman Catholic priest on the effect of the voluntary system carried out without any endowments in Ireland itself, and his words are these:—

Can it be said that the present state of clerical dependence for support upon a capricious multitude had no share in determining this unbecoming conduct on the part of the Irish Catholic priesthood? The multitude held the strings of the clerical purse, and woe betide the unfortunate priest who had set himself in opposition to their wishes. As a body they became all powerful in this respect. The common cry among them was that they would not uphold any priest who would not back them in their proceedings: and instances could be produced where this threat was carried into execution; and upright individuals of the clerical body were made the objects of every species of injustice and persecution.

All men who understand what the office of the clergy is, greatly deplore the fact that when they are stripped of all endowments they become the mere servants and tools of those whom they should teach. (Cheers.) Whether, therefore, it is to be called endowment or not, I am thankful that through some means or other there is to be retained something which is to be placed in the hands of a Church body for the benefit of the Church of Ireland to carry on its ministrations, independently of the offerings of the congregations. Let it should be supposed to speak in any spirit of unkindness of the Roman Catholic priesthood in maintaining that doctrine, allow me to read a passage with regard to a totally different set of people. It comes from the life of Crabbe Robinson, an old Dissenter. He says:—

I asked the landlord of an inn in Bohemia about the Hussites. "They are," he replied, "the most loyal and peaceable of all our people. In former days they were always breeding disturbances. Their priests were very poor, and lived on the peasants, and so they went from house to house, beggars and paupers."

The result was that instead of teaching the people to live according to the laws of the land, and giving their whole time to their religious, social, and political improvement, even these inoffensive Hussite ministers were forced to become agitators and to forget the high mission which God had given them. (Cheers.) Robinson goes on to say:—

When the Emperor Joseph II. came to Prague to be crowned he issued a decree the first day that the Hussite priests should be allowed the same pay as the lowest order of the Catholic clergy, and since then we have never had a disturbance in the country.

(Cheers and a laugh.) Nothing, of course, is easier than to sneer at these poor Hussite priests because they dropped all their agitation as soon as they received any endowment, but after all human nature is human nature, and men who have to depend for their daily bread upon the passions of the people over whom they are set cannot possibly fulfil their high mission, whether they have to appeal to the superstition or to the fanaticism of those among whom they are placed. (Cheers.) I think, therefore, all experience proves that it is a great religious question whether or not the clergy shall be entirely dependent upon their flocks for their subsistence—(Hear, hear)—and I am thankful to think that if this bill passes, according to what I am willing to say are the most conciliatory proposals of the Government, something will remain in the shape of means for the disestablished Church of Ireland. It has been remarked in the course of these debates that the religion is not worth preserving which looks to the secular arm or the mere prop of pecuniary endowment for its maintenance. Now, our religion requires nothing of the kind, but it is quite possible that, if we should neglect opportunities of good God has given us, our religion may not be presented to the people in the purest form. I believe that evil will be averted in Ireland, partly, I trust, by the fact that some endowment will still be left for the clergy, and still more by the fact that the clergy who will first have to administer the concerns of that Church will have been brought up in a totally different system from the voluntary system. If they had had to start on this voluntary system I should have despaired for the religion, for the social improvement, and for the political security of the country; but bred as they have been in a totally different system, educated, trained in habits of intimacy with the clergy of the English Church, and commanding, as they do, even from a Roman Catholic prelate, that tribute to their honour which has been more than once quoted elsewhere, and which shows that they are quite unlike those fostered on the voluntary system, I believe they will be able, if any men can, to import into this Free Church something of that spirit which they have learnt in a nobler, higher, and far better system. (Hear.) I will conclude by reading the words in which that Roman Catholic prelate bears his testimony to the Irish clergy, and which I trust will still remain characteristic of them, and distinguish them from all persons who live by pandering to the passions of the people:—

In every relation of life the Protestant clergy who reside among us are not only blameless, but estimable and edifying. They are peaceful with all, and to their neighbours they are kind when they can; and we know that on many occasions they would be more active in beneficence, but that they do not wish to appear meddling, or incur the suspicion of tampering with poor Catholics. In bearing, in manners, and in dress, they become their state. If they are not learned theo-

logians, they are accomplished scholars and polished gentlemen. There is little intercourse between them and us; but they cannot escape our observation, and sometimes when we noticed that quiet and decorous, and modest course of life, we felt ourselves giving expression to the wish—*salus cum sit, utinam nosceretur!*

Here you have the testimony of an excellent Roman Catholic prelate to the same great truth which was maintained by the leader of the Free Church in Scotland, and I believe is maintained also by the best Dissenting ministers—that there is a spirit in the clergy of the Established Church which those who belong to free churches may envy. (Cheers.)

Lord CARNARVON allowed that the extraordinary difficulties, as well of this question as of this House, excused the very unusual course which Lord Cairns had adopted. He felt bound, under the circumstances, to accept the substitute for his own amendment, and also the rest of the arrangement offered, although he doubted its equivalence to the benefits which the amendments of the House had secured for the Church.

Lord SALISBURY also doubted that as much had been insisted upon as might possibly have been if Lord Cairns had been inclined to play the part of Shylock rather than that of gentle Antonio. He intimated some regret for this gentleness, but he admitted the perplexity and responsibility of Lord Cairns' position, and, by way of a set-off to the lenity of the bargain struck with the Government, he suggested that any delay would have diminished the value of the lives on which the Church had to rely for its future support.

Lord RUSSELL congratulated and eulogised the House, and especially the Opposition and its leaders, on the arrangement. He regretted that the glebe-houses could not have been granted free from building charges to the clergy; but this was impossible, without conceding corresponding advantages to the other religious bodies. He criticised the proposed re-amendment of Clause 68.

The Duke of CLEVELAND hoped Lord Cairns would explain to the House in due course the engagement to which it was proposed to pledge the House in regard to the last-mentioned clause.

Lord MALMESBURY had often congratulated himself on having abdicated the leadership of his side of the House, but never more than when he listened to Lord Cairns' statement. He agreed to the compromise, and was convinced that after the House had affirmed the principle of disestablishment and disendowment, it would have been a scandal both to it and to the country could no arrangement have been made. As it was, if the House had not got all it might have desired for the Church, it had, at least, vindicated its place in the constitution.

Lord GREY concurred in the inefficacy of the contemplated amendment of Clause 68, which he should, however, support. With the compromise, on the whole, he expressed general satisfaction, as well as approval of the conduct both of the Opposition and of the Government, which had now given the best possible answer to the charge he had brought against it the other evening. He finally congratulated the country and himself on his views on this question of the Irish Church having been now, after five-and-thirty years, acceded to.

Lord HALIFAX thought no grave question had ever been satisfactorily settled except by mutual concessions. He was persuaded of the fairness of the present compromise.

Lord HARROWBY, while retaining his former objections to the bill, rejoiced at the compromise; but he reminded the House that the Church had even now obtained a mere five per cent. beyond that to which it had a strict positive right. The House had advanced its position greatly in showing its respect for public opinion,—too much respect, indeed, he thought, considering the change he believed to have occurred recently in that public opinion.

Lord ATHLUMNEY regretted that the opportunity had been missed of sending forth a message of peace and conciliation to Ireland by granting glebe-houses to the other religious communities. But he was ready to accept the terms which had been made, and he predicted in impressive language the benefits which might result from the bill to his country.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH also joined in the general chorus of approval. The House had yielded its own strong opinion against the bill in deference to the will of the country, and to that will, even though in regard, at any rate, to disendowment, very doubtfully expressed. He himself feared the measure would not produce the anticipated effects; but, the measure having been once launched, the peace of England and of Ireland would have been placed in jeopardy by its relinquishment.

Lord STANHOPE would have considered the loss of the bill, great as were the objections to it, as a public misfortune. He deprecated discussion of the amendment to Clause 68, and, while defending his amendment in favour of co-ordinate endowment, he maintained, also, the expediency of not now insisting upon it.

Lord LYVEDEN commended Lord Cairns much, and Lord GRANVILLE more, but himself and the other advocates of concurrent endowment most of all. He required further information on the amendment to Clause 68.

Lord CAIRNS said that in his view the proposed re-amendment of Clause 68 would prevent any dealing with the surplus in the absence of express legislation. He took the opportunity also to explain what had been the attitude of the Irish bishops on the subject of their seats in the House.

Lord FINGALL expressed the gratitude of the Irish Roman Catholics to the House for the result.

Lord BANDON by no means sympathised with the exchange of mutual congratulations on the great work crowned on that evening. He dwelt particu-

larly on the injustice of requiring payment of the building charges on the glebe-houses.

After a few words from Lord GRANVILLE in acknowledgment of the manner in which the compromise had been received, and for the purpose of explaining that the addition of 12 per cent. was a suggestion not originally of the Government, but of Lord CAIRNS, and after a solemn protest by the Bishop of TUAM against disestablishment as a national sin, and against disendowment as a national injustice,

The House proceeded to consider and, subject to the compromise as stated by Lord Cairns, to agree to the several amendments of the Commons to the Lords' amendments. There was one division—viz., on the question of assenting to the Commons' amendment to the Lords' amendment in Clause 27, with respect to ecclesiastical residences; but the Commons' amendment was agreed to by 47 to 17. In Clause 68 Lord GRANVILLE objected to the insertion of the words proposed by Lord Granville, on the ground that it was absurd to attempt to bind future Parliaments; but he did not press his objection.

A committee was then appointed to draw up reasons in respect of those of the Commons' amendments from which the House had disagreed, and the bill was ordered to be reported.

Other bills were advanced a stage, and their Lordships adjourned at five minutes to ten o'clock.

INDIAN FINANCE.

The difficulty of finding a spare night in the House of Commons for the annual financial statement of the Indian Government led the Duke of ARGYLL on Friday to take the novel course of submitting it to the House of Lords. He showed that in the ten years since the mutiny the revenue had increased by over fifteen millions sterling, i.e., at a rate of forty-five per cent., the revenue of the year preceding the mutiny having been 33,375,000*l.*, and that of 1867-8 48,534,000*l.* Of the gross amount of income 7,315,000*l.* was due to new or increased taxation; but the remainder to the increase of returns from old sources, such as opium, the land revenue, and the Customs. Indeed, under several heads the increase of profit to the State had been accompanied by a reduction of the burden on the taxpayer, there having been, for instance, a very large reduction of the Customs duties, while, again, the proportion which the State derived under the item of land revenue, on which there had been an increase in every province of India, now did not exceed twenty-five per cent. of the produce, as against fifty per cent. formerly. He showed, moreover, that the two years which he had compared were ordinary years, and that the comparison gave no impression of the actual elasticity of which Indian revenue admitted in exceptional years. Turning, then, to the common belief that the Indian Empire had been for years in a state of chronic debt, he denied that this, as a rule, was true, and he explained that in particular it had not been the fact in three of the years since 1860. Contemporaneously, however, with the increase of revenue there had been in the ten years since the mutiny a slightly greater increase of expenditure, leaving a deficit of about 1,000,000*l.* The increase had been greatest in military expenditure, which he saw but little hope of reducing, except as to the expense, now enormous, of recruiting; but other heads of increased expenditure were law and justice, the machinery of which had been thereby considerably improved, and 2,305,004*l.* more than before the mutiny was payable in respect of the Indian debt. As to that, however, he reminded the House that we were borrowing now on easier terms than formerly, viz., at four per cent., and that the credit of the Indian Empire as it was stood higher than that of any European Power. Public works were a serious additional source of expenditure. The total result then showed that on the ordinary expenditure there was an annual deficit of one million, and on the expenditure on public works of from two to three millions. Such a deficit gave, he thought, no ground for alarm, our whole Indian debt not exceeding even now two years' Indian revenue; but he held there was ground for caution and for introducing greater economy where economy was possible. He suggested that the whole subject of State guarantees of the cost of public works required revision. In particular, in respect to the construction of railways, he sketched a plan by which the Indian Government should take railway-making into its own hands, and construct the lines on its own account, borrowing the necessary capital on its own credit, and not through the medium of boards sitting in London. He believed the Government could do the work both more cheaply and better than the experience of the last few years showed could be done where the body which contracted—and that body the Government—and that which had to take the risk were different.

Lord HALIFAX and Lord SALISBURY, while expressing general satisfaction with the statement, threw doubts, the former on the productiveness of the public works, and the other on the necessity for such a large military expenditure.

Lord LAWRENCE deprecated as injurious even to our finances a great reduction in the numbers of the English army maintained in India, which, considering its proportion to the native troops, and considering also the population of India, its size, and the warlike disposition of many of its tribes, especially on the frontier, he denied was now excessive. He saw, moreover, no possibility of making any material increase in the existing taxes, but he suggested that the deficit might be lessened by relieving the Indian revenue from certain charges. For instance, the expense of soldiers who had passed the Indian frontier ought, he maintained, in fairness to fall on

the English revenue, on the same principle on which India paid the cost of troops raised for its service before even they left this country. He insisted on the duty of expenditure on barracks and on the policy of expenditure on irrigation. On the question of the guarantee system, he thought gratitude was due to the private enterprise which had started railways in India, but he was convinced the expenditure under guarantees was enormous, excessive, and unreasonable, and he warmly supported the plan referred to by the Duke of Argyll.

In reply to Lord Chelmsford, Lord CLARENDON said it was not his intention to bring in a bill this session to enable her Majesty to conclude an extradition treaty with the Emperor of the French, though he admitted the necessity for such a step.

ROYAL ASSENT TO THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

On Monday the Royal Assent was given by commission shortly after four o'clock to the Irish Church Bill. Lord Granville had gone to Osborne on Saturday, and completed all the necessary arrangements connected with the granting of her Majesty's gracious assent to the great measure of the year. The entire absence of any demonstration of interest on the part of the Legislature or the public which attended a ceremony by which it became the law of the land strikingly contrasted with the exciting debates and the numerous divisions which marked almost every step of its progress through both Houses. The benches of their Lordships' House had not a single occupant. Viscount Eversley happened to enter the House during the ceremony, and stood near the Throne, but with this exception not a single peer besides the Lords Commissioners themselves put in an appearance. On the Commons being summoned by Colonel CLIFFORD, Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod, the number of hon. members who accompanied the Speaker to the Bar did not exceed a score. Amongst them were:—Mr. R. W. Crawford, Mr. S. Morley, the Marquis of Lorne, Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. Miall, Sir John Gray, Mr. Miller, Mr. Bouverie, Mr. Candlish, Mr. H. Richard, Alderman Lusk, Mr. Stapleton, &c. The Royal Commission was then read by the Clerk at the table, and the Royal Assent given, with the usual formalities. The first bill to which the Royal Assent was announced was the Irish Church Bill, described as "An Act to put an end to the Establishment of the Irish Church, and to make provision in respect thereof, and also in respect of the College of Maynooth." The Lords Commissioners were the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of St. Albans, and Lord De Tabley. The other bills included the following:—The Pensions Commutation Bill, the Judicial Statistics (Scotland) Bill, the Stipendiary Magistrates' Deputies Bill, the Prisons (Scotland) Administration Act, 1860, Amendment Bill, the Court of Session Act, 1868, Amendment Bill, the Sunday and Ragged Schools Bill, the Assessed Rates Bill, the Poor Law Board (Provisional Order Confirmation) Bill, the Local Government Supplemental Bill, and a number of private bills.

The sitting was suspended at half-past four, and the House resumed at five.

Lords DE LINDSEY and WINCHELSEA put questions on the subject of pictures bought for the National Gallery, which were answered by Lord OVERSTON as a trustee of the National Gallery, and a considerable discussion ensued.

A conversation subsequently took place on the efficiency of the Irish police.

The Evidence Amendment Bill was read a second time after some discussion.

THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The House then went into committee on the Bankruptcy Bill, which has been reported on by a select committee. Some discussion arose on the compensation clauses. In relation to them, Lord CAIRNS observed on the anomaly of imposing on Mr. Commissioner Bacon yet higher duties than his present, with only the same salary as his brother Commissioners would enjoy without any duties whatever, and which salary would be much smaller than his successors were to receive. He maintained, moreover, the right of quasi-judicial officers like the Registrars to their full salaries so long as they continued willing to discharge their duties; and he denied the equity of obliging them to take office in a different district from that to which they had been originally appointed. He suggested the omission of Clause 133. Lord ROMILLY considered the provision an unprecedented and cruel interference by an Act of Parliament with what were really rights of property; and, after all, the country would not gain a thousand a year by it! The Lord Chancellor maintained, in particular, the justice of making persons in receipt of their full salaries, and whose whole time must be considered, therefore, to have been bought by the State, liable to be called on to undertake similar duties. He agreed, however, to an amendment somewhat limiting the application of the clause in its original state. The bill then, after an ineffectual attempt by Lord DENMAN to move an amendment, passed through committee.

In the Committee on the Imprisonment for Debt Bill, Lord ROMILLY moved, but did not press, an amendment on the subject of certain exceptions to which he objected from the abolition of imprisonment for debt. The bill passed through committee, and various other bills were advanced a stage.

Their Lordships adjourned at ten minutes past nine o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday Mr. MILLBANK created quite a sensation by asking the Speaker whether there was any means of obtaining redress or an apology for the language used in "another place" insolent to the "leader of a great party" and insulting to the House. The SPEAKER of course replied that the House could not take cognisance of the debates in "another place."

The adjourned debate on the second reading of Mr. Carnegie's bill for abolishing the Scotch Law of Hypothec occupied several hours, and in the end it was read a second time by 127 to 91, but on the understanding that it would not be pressed further this session.

Lord ENFIELD next explained the provisions of the Special and Common Juries Bill, which also is dropped for the session. The Adulteration of Food or Drink Act Amendment Bill was withdrawn by Mr. DIXON.

The adjourned debate on the third reading of the Married Women's Property Bill was resumed by Mr. O. HAIKES, who moved its rejection, and suggested a counter scheme. As the law made a will for people who did not make their own, so, in the absence of a regular settlement, he would have the law assume a settlement by which the municipal authorities would be the trustees of the property of married women within their districts. For the protection of married women's earnings, where a woman earned the livelihood of the family, and the husband contributed nothing, he would allow her to obtain from a County Court judge an order giving her the right to hold property as a *feme sole*. But this measure went much further than the necessity, and he deprecated it as part of a movement to put women on a civil equality with men, which would be most injurious to them, and would strike a blow at the institution of marriage. Mr. JESSE defended the bill as not intended to give women new rights, but merely to continue to them as married women the same rights they had enjoyed as spinsters. Mr. BARNARDISTON HORN urged the lateness of the period as a reason for postponement until next year. On a division the third reading was carried by a majority of 99—131 to 32.

The County Coroners and Suburban Commons Bills were withdrawn, and the Railway Construction Facilities Act Amendment and Cinque Ports Act Amendment Bills passed through committee.

The House adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

On Thursday Sir WILFRID LAWSON asked whether it was true that, in consequence of the Imperial Chinese proclamation forbidding the cultivation of the poppy in China, it had been determined to increase the production of opium in the Bengal Presidency.

Mr. GRANT DUFF said it had been determined to increase the production of opium in the Bengal Presidency, but that determination was in no way connected with the Chinese proclamation to which his hon. friend alluded. The Government of India some time ago proposed to increase the growth of the poppy in Bengal with a view to obtaining a reserve of 10,000 chests of opium, and to offering for sale a fixed quantity of 48,000 chests in each year, exclusive of the opium sold to the retail traders. The object of the Government of India in proposing this was to steady prices, and to mitigate some, at least, of the uncertainties so embarrassing to the Indian financier which arose from fluctuations in the opium market. This proposal of the Government of India was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in Council as far back as March last.

UNIVERSITY TESTS BILL.

Mr. SARTON asked the Solicitor-General whether, considering that the University Tests Bill would not become law this session, the Government would be prepared to include a more comprehensive scheme for the extension of our Universities in the general educational measure they intended to bring forward next year.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said that his official connection with the Government was not such as to enable him to speak authoritatively as to the intentions of the Cabinet on the subject; but if the hon. member wished to have an explanation of his opinion he might say that the entire rejection of the wishes of the House of Commons by a majority of the House of Lords in refusing even to consider a bill (Ministerial cheers) sent up to them year after year by very large majorities in this House (renewed cheering) relieved him from the duty of considering their feelings and prejudices with respect to the measure in question. (Cheers and cries of "Order" from the Opposition benches.)

Lord SANDON rose to order. He asked the Speaker whether the hon. and learned member was in order in commenting on the proceedings of the other House.

The SPEAKER said that the rule of the House was not to comment on the debates of the House of Lords, but to allude to the public acts of that House was a different matter. (Ministerial cheers.)

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL resumed, and was understood to say that if the majority in the House of Lords who voted against the bill were unaware that demands of the kind ought to be subject to contemptuous rejection, they were the only persons in the kingdom who laboured under such ignorance. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. DISRAELI rose to order. He wished to know

whether, in answering a question, it was in order for a member to debate a public matter. He had no objection to the hon. and learned gentleman having his opinion, and taking a proper occasion to communicate it to the House, but it should not be expressed under circumstances which allowed of no answer. (Opposition cheers.)

The SPEAKER thought it was desirable that in answering a question all controversial matter should be as much as possible avoided. (Hear, hear.)

THE TRAFFIC IN SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS.

Mr. TAYLOR asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs if he would state to the House what course her Majesty's Government proposed to take in regard to the acknowledged evils of the traffic in South Sea Islanders now in active operation in the Polynesian Archipelago.

Mr. OTWAY said that a communication was received at the Foreign Office in June, 1868, from the Convener of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, stating, on the authority of some missionaries at the New Hebrides, that a system of kidnapping natives was being carried on in vessels under the British, American, and French flags, and that even in the case of natives who went willingly the contracts made with them were not adhered to, and that they were detained for longer periods than they were hired for. The missionaries denounced this traffic as "being no better than slave-trading, alike injurious to those who are taken and those who are left. As those who are taken are the strongest of the men, the remaining population is composed of the old and infirm, with the women and children; the women, moreover, on losing their husbands, take others, a course which," the missionaries observed, "produces complications (laughter) and quarrels on the return of the emigrants." Her Majesty's consuls and naval officers who were directed to report on this matter did not bear out the missionaries in their statements, but it was very probable that abuses did arise connected with this immigration, and at Lord Clarendon's suggestion, therefore, special instructions had been sent to the naval authorities on the station to watch over the operations in progress to procure immigrants, and to prevent anything like the slave-trade in disguise. (Hear, hear.) Her Majesty's Consul in the Polynesian Archipelago and in the Sandwich Islands would receive instructions in this sense also. (Hear.) He could assure his hon. friend, and also the hon. member for Perth, who had been in communication with them on the subject, that it would not be neglected in the Foreign Office. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BRUCE withdrew the Petroleum Bill, but contradicted the report that the Habitual Criminals Bill was to be dropped.

NEW ZEALAND.

Lord BURY raised a discussion on the present state of affairs in New Zealand. A vigorous and graphic description of the condition of the colony, the vicissitudes and sufferings of the colonists, and the horrible ferocity of the native rebels, led up to an argument that the Home Government had done a cruel wrong to New Zealand in withdrawing the troops. They had sown the wind and had left the colonists to reap the whirlwind. He appealed to the generosity and humanity of the House of Commons, as well as to policy and justice, not to disregard the cry of a nation in its direst peril. If they refused to interpose, sympathetic aid would be called in from the neighbouring colony of Australia, whose wild spirits would seek in the confiscation of the native lands the reward of any assistance which they might render. Let the friendly tribes be civilised, but, if necessary, let those Hauhaun fanatics, with their weasel-like thirst for blood, be utterly stamped out, and let not all be mixed up in one indiscriminate hotch-potch. Mr. MAGNIAC and Sir H. SELWYN-IBASTON, also blamed the withdrawal of Imperial troops.

Sir C. DILKE maintained that it was by the special desire of the colonists that the management of native affairs and the conduct of the war had been left in their hands. He treated as preposterous the notion of a handful of natives being too strong for the settlers to deal with, and strongly opposed a return to the old policy of guaranteeing colonial loans.

Mr. R. W. FOWLER made some remarks in favour of the Aborigines Protection Society, and expressed a strong opinion that it would be a disgrace to England if, instead of civilising them—of which they were quite capable—we resorted to a policy of extermination.

Mr. MONSELL defended the action of the Colonial Office, which was not responsible for recent events. The withdrawal of the troops had been imperatively demanded by the colonists, and while it was being carried out the present Colonial Government had neglected to take adequate means for the protection of the settlers. It was most unreasonable, therefore, and it would be a fatal gift to the colonists, to return to the old vicious policy. As to a guarantee, Mr. Monsell objected to it by a comparison of the weight of taxation on the English and colonial population, and also on the general ground of policy that, having given the colonists the complete management of their own affairs, we ought to leave them to carry it on without assistance.

Mr. ADDERLEY strongly deprecated the smallest step backwards towards the old meddling system, which was at the bottom of all the misfortunes of New Zealand. Admitting the mistakes of the old Crown Government, he denied that the British taxpayer ought to pay for them, and attributing the present unprotected state of the colony to party conflicts, he urged that the Colonial Office should support the party which advocated a self-reliant policy.

Mr. R. TOLBURN espoused the side of the colonists

in their disputes with the natives, and offered a suggestion that our colonies should be represented by *Chargés d'Affaires* at the seat of the Central Government; while Mr. DIXON defended the Imperial policy, and attributed the mistakes of the Colonial Office to the advice of the Colonial Government.

On the Civil Service Estimates, Class 2 (Salaries of Public Departments) was completed all but one vote, and Class 4 (Education, Science, and Art) likewise, with the exception of the Irish Education votes.

The orders of the day were disposed of, and the House adjourned at five minutes to three o'clock.

IRISH CHURCH BILL.

On Friday the final stage of the Irish Church Bill attracted the largest audience yet known at a morning sitting. The Premier's seat on the Treasury bench remained for some time vacant, and much uncertainty prevailed as to whether he would be well enough to come down; but before the questions were over loud cheers from the Liberal benches announced that he had taken his place. On the order being read for the consideration of the Lords' amendments,

Mr. GLADSTONE, who had on the previous day been confined by indisposition to his room, and looked very pale and worn, commenced by expressing the heavy sense of responsibility, but at the same time of profound satisfaction, with which he moved that the House agree with the Lords' amendments without exception and without reservation; and he ran rapidly over the six points of the compromise, indicating the motives of the Government for agreeing to each. He accepted the excision of the preamble, on the ground that in the 68th Clause enacting words would be inserted sufficiently indicating the application of the surplus; the retention of the date at 1871 he regarded as a token not of victory, but of the harmonious opinion of both Houses; and on the deduction of the curates' stipends, the arrangement of the Lords he considered as fair and reasonable. As to the glebe-houses, he observed that the Government originally would not have been disposed in the last resort obstinately to stand by the clause, but the discussions here and elsewhere had so complicated it with the question of equal treatment of the clergy of all religions that it was impossible for them to yield. Substantially, therefore, it would remain unaltered, though there would be an advantage to the clergy in allowing them to except from the commutation of their life interests the commutation for the house and land they occupied. The surplus clause would be reduced to a very simple form, for while it would declare that the surplus should be applied in the main for the relief of unavoidable calamity, it would leave the particular mode open for the direction of future Parliaments. This would substantially carry out the intention of the Government that this great sum of money should not be held back as the subject of intrigue, bargains, and pledges at every future Irish election. Mr. Gladstone here vindicated the original determination of the Government not to shrink from the disposal of the surplus, expressing his firm conviction that to have followed the precedent of the Reform Bill of 1866, by attempting to separate the two parts of the subject, would have been equally fatal to the measure. And this led into a digression on the previous debates, in which he exhorted both sides to lay aside the memory of all words which might have tended to embitter the controversy, and set the example by apologising for the "up-in-a-balloon" phrase, which, however, he explained, only meant that the Lords were necessarily ignorant to a great extent of the engagements and relations between members and their constituents. The right hon. gentlemen went on to say—

Sir, from the first moment of the conception and of the introduction of this bill, our dominant idea, to which every other has given way, has been our sense of the duty of keeping strict and loyal faith with the people who have sent us here. (Cheers.) The engagements at the last general election were no ordinary engagements. (Cheers.) In general a candidate goes before a constituency with general declarations of opinion, which are liable necessarily to very large varieties of application. It rarely happens that an issue perfectly distinct on a question of primary national importance is submitted to the country at a general election. Such an issue was submitted at the beginning of 1784, when Parliament was dissolved upon the question between supporting George III. and the Ministry of Mr. Pitt against the coalition of Mr. Fox and Lord North. Such an issue was submitted when, in the spring of 1831, the country was asked whether it would rally round and sustain the Reform Bill of the Government of Lord Grey. Such an issue was again submitted in November last, and these three occasions of questions so put with such distinctness, and upon interests so vast, before the country are the only three, so far as I know, that the Parliamentary history of an entire century affords. We had no choice—whether as persons engaged together in Government, or as persons actuated by a sentiment of individual honour—we had no choice except to make strict fidelity to our engagements the cardinal consideration to govern our course. Subject to that, we were desirous to make every concession to the Irish Church about to be disestablished that was compatible with the principles of religious equality which we desired to run like a silver cord through the whole tissue of the bill. (Cheers.) That being so, when the bill came back from the House of Lords to be discussed in this House, we carefully reviewed and severely tested the provision we had made, and asked ourselves what were the points on which it would be possible for the House of Commons, without derogation from the principle of the bill, to make further concessions either to the Church or to any other religious body. The result of the conclusion at

which we arrived was exhibited in the amendments we recommended, and which the House was pleased to adopt in the debates of Thursday and Friday last; and the pecuniary effect of these amendments, so far as we could judge, was to grant to the disestablished Church a sum of money little short of 800,000*l.*, besides the sum corresponding in respect to the commutation which was granted to the Presbyterians. These were our overtures towards the settlement of the question, and I refer to them now because they form an essential link in the chain of the transactions. Other overtures were made to us, and after we had concluded the process in this House we again considered what our course was to be in the event of such overtures being made, and whether it was still possible for us to make any step in advance. We still concluded that we had done all that the principle of the bill, strictly considered, would admit—say, that in respect of private endowments we had done more than the principle of the bill, strictly considered, would admit. But, notwithstanding, we at once arrived at this conclusion, that considering all the great interests involved in the case—the benefits of passing the measure, the mischief of its rejection—(cheers)—the value of peace, the desire we entertained for it, and lastly the deference which none of us should be ashamed to own that he owes to the other branch of the Legislature: the combined force of these considerations, we at once concluded, provided the question ever reached that issue, to recommend strongly to the House to make one further sensible and substantial concession in order to bring about an agreement with the House of Lords. (Cheers.) Now, Sir, that is a plain and unvarnished tale—(cheers)—and it is upon that tale that we wish our case to stand. I have no doubt that considerable collateral benefits will arise from accelerating commutation—for instance, where commutation occurs the clergyman being also a landlord. But still the main grounds on which we recommend the concession, and it is certainly in our view a concession beyond the principle of the bill, are those I have briefly detailed—they are the immense public interests involved, the great object we have in view, and the desire to defer to and concur with the House of Lords in the exemplification of that harmony of our institutions which, perhaps, have rarely been more severely tried than during the discussions of the present year; and which, I thank God, have stood the trial. (Cheers.) Sir, I know not that I need add anything in explanation of these amendments, excepting to say that, immediately we found that a disposition existed which gave us hope of a common basis, my noble friend, Lord Granville, in that spirit we all must admire, and with that capacity which I think all admit—(cheers)—entered into the detailed communications which have resulted in the settlement which we now recommend. (Cheers.) And, Sir, it is but fair that I should repeat, what I have before gladly said, that I should own my acknowledgments to the Opposition in this House for the manner in which—abstaining from every effort to clog the course of this bill, whether by open or by secret obstruction—they allowed the issue to be taken fairly, and while fighting the battle with the courage that becomes them as English gentlemen they stooped to no unfair advantage. (Cheers.) And further, Sir, I must refer to another place, and must acknowledge with satisfaction and thankfulness, not only the ability which I grant to be a great ornament and glory of the other House as displayed in debate, but that comprehensive sagacity and forethought, that power of realising the future and of preparing for it, which alone, I think, has brought about on the part of the House of Lords the recommendation of the settlement which I am now authorised to urge on the House. (Cheers.) Sir, we have arrived indeed at a great period. When this bill receives—as I trust it will receive within a very few days—the assent of the Crown, every man must be conscious that a change has begun to pass over the moral atmosphere of Ireland. (Hear, hear.) I think, too, that quite apart from the differing views which we have taken on this measure, every man will feel that at the introduction of this new period it is a solemn duty for each of us, in his sphere, to labour to accomplish his own prophecies, if they have been sanguine, and to defeat his own predictions if they have been gloomy and unfavourable. (Cheers.) And, moreover, I am confident that this will be the spirit in which this measure will be ushered into the world. So far as we are concerned we have urged it as a remedy, in part, for the diseases of Ireland, because we are convinced that in equality, as it is understood in this country—and it is here a term of far different import from that which the corresponding phrase bears across the Straits of Dover—that in equal laws and equal rights there is a potency of charm for healing political and social wounds, and for creating that concord which is the strength and glory of the nation. On such grounds, it is our duty to test to the utmost the power of that principle, and as a portion of that process it is that we have urged this bill. But, Sir, in endeavouring to put an end to a state of privilege for the minority, it is, not I hope, to introduce a state of tyranny on the part of the majority. I trust that majority will disclaim that tyranny both in word and action, and indeed if they should not we should be compelled to admit that although it might exhibit a condition of things less odious than that which we have denounced, yet it would still be a condition of odious and intolerable tyranny. (Hear, hear.) To the Roman Catholics by this bill we offer nothing but that which we believe to be their strictest due. With the Presbyterian community we have endeavoured to deal on principles of equal justice. To the Church that is now disestablished, and towards which not one of us can ever feel a sentiment other than that of earnest good-will—(cheers)—to the Church now disestablished we simply record our wish and prayer that there may be developed in her, according to her means, those masculine qualities by which a great crisis can be met. And we bid her God-speed on her new career. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. VANCE characterised the arrangement as an "unconditional surrender," and specially blamed the House of Lords for yielding on the question of the Ulster glebe.

Sir ROUNDELL PALMER recognised the wisdom of giving way when the point was reached at which further conflict could only damage those whose interests were involved. Had there been a reasonable chance that by holding out longer better terms could have been obtained, a prolongation of the

struggle would have been justifiable; but that was not so here, and believing it also to be better for the disestablished Church that her fall, if it could not be averted, should not imperil other important institutions of the country, he concurred in the compromise. This, he held, involved a concession on the part of the Government, both of substance and feeling, for, to a Minister with a powerful majority at his back, who had all along spoken with such severity and sternness of every proposition trenching on the principle of the bill, it must have cost something to give way. But he applauded Mr. Gladstone for the wisdom of his course, and eulogised warmly the temper, moderation, and courtesy with which he had conducted the bill. Between Sir Roundell Palmer and Mr. Disraeli there intervened Sir F. HAYGATE, who, with his usual moderation of tone, expressed his hope that the predictions of peace and harmony might be fulfilled, though he had personally little expectation of the sort from a bill which he disapproved as strongly as ever; Mr. LARKE spoke in the same sense. Mr. WHALLEY had no confidence in Papists being conciliated or satisfied by any amount of justice and good treatment. Sir J. EAMONDS and other Irish members were profuse in their acknowledgments of the courtesy and ability of everybody connected with the bill, one of them provoking some merriment by his declaration that the bridge which had so long separated Catholics and Protestants was now broken down.

Mr. LARKE trusted that the silver cord which the right hon. gentleman had spoken of as running through the bill would extend to the working of the measure, and that those happy results would flow from its operation which he had not been sanguine enough to expect.

Sir P. O'BRIEN, in the name of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, tendered his thanks to the right hon. gentleman at the head of the Government and his colleagues—(Hear, hear,)—and not only to them but to that rank and file of members for England, Scotland, and Wales who supported him and his co-religionists in the endeavour to secure an act of justice for their country. (Hear, hear.) He and his fellow Roman Catholic members could with truth say that they regarded the passing of the bill in no way as a triumph over their Protestant fellow-countrymen—(cheers,)—and he sincerely hoped that from that day forward religious animosities would for ever be extinguished in Ireland. (Hear.)

Mr. CHARLEY thanked the right hon. gentleman at the head of the Government for the uniform courtesy which he had extended to him personally during the course of the discussions on the bill. If he had used strong language—(a laugh)—he had done so only under great provocation, and perhaps the right hon. gentleman would scarcely believe him when he told him that the Protestants of Ireland had asked him to go so far as to impeach him at the bar of the House of Lords. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) To the admirable taste, however, which the right hon. gentleman had displayed that day, as well as to the lenient use which he had made of his dictatorship, he must bear his testimony. He could not at the same time refrain from expressing his regret that the House of Lords should have read the bill a second time, and that they should have come to the present compromise. If the House of Lords had thrown themselves unreservedly on the Conservative democracy of the country—(a laugh,)—they would have been supported by it in throwing out the measure—(Hear, hear,)—and as one of the representatives of that Conservative democracy he would gladly resign his seat—"Hear, hear," and laughter,—did he not feel that so long as the rhetorical dictatorship to which he had referred existed, no part of our Constitution was safe. (A laugh.) To-day it was the Church of Ireland which was attacked; to-morrow it might be the Church of England—(Hear, hear,)—and he regretted to find that the right rev. prelates who presided over the Church of England seemed by their silence to have admitted that most pernicious principle that the State could secularise what had been devoted to the service of God. Against that principle he for one must strongly protest, and if it should some day be applied to the case of his Dissenting friends on the other side of the House, he should be happy to assist them in resisting it. (A laugh.)

Mr. KIRK objected to the present measure because it did not secure true religious equality; for while the disestablished Church was to have from 250l. to 300l. a year for each of her clergy, the clergymen of the Presbyterian Church would receive not more than from 36l. to 39l. a year. He felt, therefore, that his pledge to his constituents was not fully redeemed by the bill, but he at the same time did not wish to disturb the unanimity which seemed to prevail in all parts of the House on the present occasion. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DISRAELI took exception to Mr. Vance's complaint that this was an "unconditional surrender." If there had been any difference between the two Houses on principle, it might have been wise to delay a settlement for another year, but when it was entirely one of detail delay would have been a doubtful advantage. That the difference with which the House was dealing was entirely one of detail he insisted with much iteration, pointing out that these points were four; and as the Government had made substantial modifications of three of these, he preferred to describe the transaction in which the House was engaged as a wise and conciliatory settlement rather than as "unconditional surrender." As to which side had got the best he did not profess to have formed an opinion, but he added, amid some laughter, that if he had he should think it wise for the purposes of debate not to say which it was. If a

reciprocal belief of this kind prevailed on both sides, it was an additional reason for believing that the compromise was a fair one, and if the question was to be settled, and a collision between the two Houses on a mere matter of detail avoided, he could not see how it could have been done in any other way. He reminded some of his own friends who seemed dissatisfied about the glebe-houses that many great authorities held that the demand he had put forward was unreasonable, and the strong feeling about it had arisen chiefly from the pledges given last year by Mr. Bright and Mr. Gladstone, which they had acknowledged their inability to fulfil. This led Mr. Disraeli to express a hope that this was the last attempt which would be made to settle political questions on abstract principles; for if Mr. Gladstone had not been hampered by having laid down such a broad basis of abstract principles, from which he had been compelled to deviate on many points, he might have settled the question on a juster and more satisfactory footing. In conclusion he said:—

The House of Commons has agreed to disestablish and disendow the Church of Ireland. I regret it. The House of Lords has agreed to it, and by no mean majority, and the affair is at an end. But when hon. gentlemen regard what after all should be looked upon by both sides of the House, under the circumstances, as a wise and statesmanlike and satisfactory settlement of a most difficult question from an erroneous and perverted point of view—namely, that we are now settling the principles of the measure, whereas we are only arranging in an amicable and conciliatory manner for all parties certain details of the measure—they may believe with my hon. friend that there has been an unconditional surrender of principle, although there has only been, I repeat, a satisfactory and statesmanlike settlement of detail. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE, in reply to Mr. Kirk, contended that the Presbyterians of Ireland had been treated in a spirit of the utmost impartiality. There was no point affecting them which had not been anxiously considered by the Government and settled upon terms at least equal to those given to the Established Church. As to the statement that the compensations given to the Presbyterians were far inferior to those of the Established Church, it was not inequality in the true sense of the word, but it was an inequality arising out of the material circumstances of the case, for compensation must bear a strict and inevitable relation to the endowment of which it was to take the place. He regarded the spirit both of the majority and the minority with the best hope for the future when he recollected the tone of the speeches which had been delivered, and he would particularly refer to the speech of the hon. member for Dublin University. (Hear.) He looked upon the measure which was now brought to a successful issue as one of the greatest acts of justice and wisdom ever adopted by any legislative assembly in the world—(cheers)—and he trusted that constantly increasing years of peace, prosperity, and concord in Ireland might date from the period of this great historic event. (Cheers.)

Mr. MAGUIRE thought the country had cause to be satisfied with the issue of the discussions which had arisen, and he believed, from the experience of what had happened in Scotland, that the Free Irish Church had nothing to fear from throwing itself on Christian sympathy for support.

Sir J. GRAY expressed his regret at hearing the remarks of the hon. member for Newry. While the Presbyterians, numbering 600,000, got something—and a considerable something—the Roman Catholics, amounting to 5,000,000, got nothing; but they were completely satisfied with the measure, because it was a recognition of their right to stand on an equal platform with their Protestant fellow-countrymen, and indicative of a determination on the part of the Imperial Parliament to grapple with the grievances of Ireland. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MYALL said he could not part from this subject without one word of farewell. He should not detain the House, for after all that had occurred his emotions were too deep to admit of his addressing the House at any length. But this was a question on the settlement of which he really thought it became some representative of the opinions of the Nonconformist body to say one word. (Hear, hear.) He could not but rejoice that one great and important principle of the Nonconformist body had now received a legislative adoption. (Hear, hear.) He believed it to be a principle of justice, and that in regard to Ireland the consequences of its adoption would soon appear in greater harmony and greater social confidence amongst the people, and truer and more earnest exertion for the promotion of religious views. (Hear, hear.) He trusted that the religion to be henceforth propagated in Ireland would be far less political and polemical in its character than it had hitherto been, and he wished to say, so far as he could say it, on behalf of the bodies whose sentiments he represented, that now that the Church had ceased to be a political body, they would on their part be ready to afford any possible assistance they could in promoting the views of the disestablished Church, and placing her in a strong position. (Hear, hear.) There never had been any feeling in their minds which would tend to the destruction of that body as a spiritual institution. (Hear, hear.) They had never wished it to occupy a position of disadvantage. They did not believe the money that had been left to it under the bill would be of essential service to it in the future, and thought the only way in which that Church could triumph over the difficulties of her position would be by putting forward a spirit of self-sacrifice which their common Christianity demanded of all Churchmen. (Cheers.) He cordially congratulated the right hon. gentleman on having conducted this great controversy to a success-

ful issue, and trusted that the end would be the initiation in Ireland of a new era of peace, harmony, and prosperity. (Cheers.)

Mr. Serjeant DOWNS thanked the Government, that House, and the other House of Parliament, for this glorious settlement of this great question. (Hear, hear.) He believed it would be satisfactory to the Roman Catholics of Ireland—(Hear, hear)—that the Presbyterians of the North, when they understood it, would be satisfied—(Hear, hear)—and he believed that to the Independents it would be satisfactory beyond measure. (Cheers.)

Successive motions were then put and adopted, by which the House declared that it did not insist upon its disagreements with the Lords' amendments, and agreed in the amendments of the Lords.

A resolution was passed amidst loud cheers that a message to that effect should be sent to the Upper House.

MR. MURPHY.

The rest of the morning sitting was occupied by Mr. NEWDEGATE's impeachment of the Home Secretary for his interference with the lecturer Murphy at Tynemouth. Mr. BRUCE made a brief defence, pointed out that he had acted solely for the preservation of the public peace. Mr. DIXON and Mr. MUNTZ defended the Mayor of Birmingham, whose conduct also had been impugned; Mr. WHALLEY supported the motion; and Lord SANDON, putting aside the theological part of the question, dwelt on the importance of preserving the liberty of speech.

Mr. DOWNING was speaking, when he was interrupted by the suspension of the sitting, but the subject was resumed at the evening sitting, when Mr. Downing concluded his speech, which was in deprecation of inflammatory harangues like Mr. Murphy's. Lord C. HAMILTON, Mr. HOLT, and others strongly condemned the conduct of the Home Secretary on the general ground of the impolicy of interfering with free discussion, and it was attacked by Mr. T. CHAMBERS on legal grounds. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL defended the complete legality of Mr. Bruce's interposition, and Mr. E. SMITH, the member for Tynemouth, said it had been cordially approved by the people of Tynemouth. Mr. HENLEY pointed out that one of the greatest enemies to freedom of speech was abuse of it, and declined to join in censuring Mr. Bruce, who had at least acted to the best of his judgment for the protection of order. The resolutions moved by Mr. NEWDEGATE, which amounted to a vote of censure, were negatived without a division.

NAVY CONTRACTS.

Mr. MUNTZ had given notice of his intention to ask for information as to the recent changes in the system of making contracts for the navy, and he prefaced his question by a long speech, entering into statistics of our expenditure in this and former years. Mr. BAXTER explained at length the new system of contracts and purchases which he had established, and gave numerous instances of the saving already effected in various departments. With regard to the first class—contracts—he mentioned that he had already discovered an extensive system of "tipping" both at Somerset House and in the dockyards, and he added the general observation that his short official experience had already convinced him that without putting down a single ship or sailor immense reductions might be made in our overgrown establishments. Sir J. HAY suspended his judgment on the expediency of the new system until it had been tried, but he doubted whether a system of open contracts could be bettered for supplies extending over a considerable number of years, or required under a pressure of war. Sir J. ELPHINSTONE took much the same view, and considered many of the savings Mr. Baxter took credit for were caused by the natural fall of prices. Mr. Candler, Mr. Rathbone, and Mr. Mundella made some remarks, recommending the infusion of a greater number of "business men" into the management of these departments; and Mr. LINDSELL heartily congratulated the Government on their economical success.

Mr. CHILDERS, in reply to some criticisms of Sir J. Elphinstone, defended his administration of the navy, which, he said, had given England a stronger fleet than she had possessed since the French war; and a remark from Mr. MUNDILLA, that the army purchase system was devised for corruption, called up Mr. CARDWELL, who showed that it was virtually the model for the changes being made at the Admiralty. The conversation was brought to a close by Mr. HENLEY, who predicted that private purchase would speedily make the Government as unpopular as any one could desire.

Several bills were forwarded a stage, and the House was counted out at a quarter past two o'clock.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Shortly after the House met on Monday, hon. members were summoned by Black Rod to attend the Royal Commission in the House of Lords. On their return the SPEAKER announced that the Royal assent had been given by Commission to the Irish Church Bill, which was received with cheers from the Ministerial benches, but in solemn silence by the Opposition.

The main business of the evening was Supply, and Mr. BRUCE made an appeal to those members who had preliminary motions not to press them, but to allow that and Thursday night to be given up to voting money, pointing out that otherwise it would be impossible to bring the session to a close at the usual period. But the appeal, though recommended to the discretion of the House by Mr. DISRAELI, was

not very effective, and it was nine o'clock before the House got into committee of Supply.

On the report of Thursday night's committee of Supply, Mr. CRAUFORD took objection to the item of 5,776*l.* for the expenses of the Scotch Fishery Board, and moved its rejection. The vote was defended by the Lord Advocate, Dr. Playfair, Mr. Loch, and Mr. Macfie; and though Mr. Crauford was supported by Mr. M'LAREN, Mr. MILLER, and other Scotch members, he was defeated, on a division, by 150 to 45.

Mr. GRAVES drew attention to the defective manner in which the monthly returns of the Board of Trade are made out. Mr. SHAW-LEEVER replied that the numerous complaints which had been made on this subject had led the Treasury to institute an inquiry into the statistical department of the Customs. Some of the discrepancies quoted by Mr. Graves he showed might be accounted for by the different periods at which the returns were made out, the totals all pretty nearly corresponding in the end.

Mr. C. RAIKES moved for a select committee to inquire into the circumstances under which the contract for executing the mosaics in the central hall was made with Dr. Salvati's limited company at Venice. Mr. LAYARD having given some explanations on the subject, the motion was withdrawn.

IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION.

The House went into Committee of Supply on the vote of 133,150*l.* for national education in Ireland. Mr. MAGUIRE complained of the condition in which the national teachers were left, who, he stated, were worse fed, clothed, and housed, than ordinary labourers. Mr. STYAN urged that the Consolidated Fund had been relieved by the Irish Church Bill of a charge of 70,000*l.*, and the Government could afford to give the national teachers an adequate salary and a fair superannuation. Sir F. HENYATE also made a similar application to the Government.

Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE was quite ready to admit that the condition of school teachers, considering the importance of their services, the good which they did, and the evil they could do, was not satisfactory. They had, therefore, a strong claim on the consideration of the Government. They must, however, also admit the very small local support given to the national teachers, which, allowing that Ireland was a poor country, was in marked contrast to the case in England. He hoped, however, that this state of things would not continue. After a short conversation the vote was agreed to, as were also several other votes connected with the Public Works Department in Ireland.

THE TELEGRAPH BILL.

The Telegraph Bill stood next for recommittal, but some time was occupied with a preliminary discussion going to the root of the measure in its financial aspect. It was started by

Mr. W. FOWLER, who strongly insisted that the Government was making a very improvident bargain, and one of the proofs on which he dwelt most earnestly was the rise in the price of the shares in the various companies since the moment when the idea of Government purchase was first started. Applying the ordinary rules to the transaction, he held that 12½ years' purchase, with 25 per cent. for compulsion, was an ample price to pay, and that all above that was thrown away. In addition to this, he urged that the bargain did not include all the ultimate rights of the railway companies, and that in a few years they would bring in a large bill against the State.

Mr. R. TORRENS submitted, irrespective of the first loss on the purchase dealt with by his colleague, that the State could not work the telegraphs except at a dead loss. He concluded by moving that the bill be referred back to the select committee to investigate various points bearing on the bargain between the State and the companies.

Mr. W. H. SMITH, a telegraph director, said the companies were not at all anxious to part with a valuable property, and had only yielded reluctantly to the general opinion that the public interest would be promoted by this service being in the hands of the Government. Their profits he showed by statistics had been rising rapidly in inverse ratio to their expenditure, so that the bargain now made was only sixteen and a-half years' purchase of the last year's profits.

Mr. WARD HUNT defended the bargain made by the late Government. Public opinion was strongly in favour of transferring this business to the State, and the Government had to make the best terms they could. He admitted that the telegraph companies had been liberally treated, but that did not make the transaction less profitable on the whole for the State, and if the bill had been delayed for another year the price to be paid would have been proportionately large.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON maintained that the bill of last year only affirmed the expediency of acquiring this business for the State, and that the House was quite competent to revise the terms of the bargain. But having carefully examined it, he believed it to be eminently advantageous, and he defended the Post Office calculations against the criticisms of the two members for Cambridge. As to Mr. Torrens's motion, by throwing the bill over indefinitely, as at this period of the session must be the case, it would certainly compel the State to pay a much larger price.

On a division the amendment was rejected by 148 to 23, and the House went into Committee on the bill.

Clause 4, the monopoly clause—which had been previously limited by an amendment on Clause 3 to "electric" telegraphic communications—gave rise to the longest discussion. The Marquis of

HARTINGTON, supported by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, proposed to omit the words introduced by Mr. Hunt in the Select Committee, limiting the monopoly to seven years. The limitation was supported by Mr. BOUVIER, Mr. WALTER, and others, but on a division it was struck out by 123 to 27. The other clauses of the bill were agreed to with only a few verbal amendments, and some other bills having been forwarded a stage, the House adjourned at a quarter past three o'clock.

THE LAST DAYS OF THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

The following graphic sketches from the pen of the correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* will be read with interest:—

TUESDAY IN THE LORDS.

To the amazement of the whole House, and to the irreparable injury of Lord Salisbury's reputation, the noble marquis seemed from the first utterly unconscious of the great crisis at which the country had arrived. His whole object appeared to be to arouse the laughter of the assembly at small jokes, the only point of which was their spitefulness; and from first to last not one single statesmanlike idea, not one expression showing that he was able to appreciate the vastness of the interests at stake, escaped him. Once only in the course of his speech did he even rise to the level of earnestness, and that was when he made use of a remark utterly false in itself, and coming with a peculiarly bad grace from the Marquis of Salisbury—the remark that the House of Lords was called upon to comply, not with the verdict of the nation, but with the "arrogant will of one man." In all England there is no man who has shown a more "arrogant will" than Lord Salisbury, and there would therefore have been something infinitely amusing in his assertion were it not for the serious circumstances in which it was made. As it was it was received with shouts of delight from the cross benches—where, be it remarked, the Duke of Cambridge was conspicuous, and from the Opposition side of the House. Mr. Gladstone was standing at the throne at the time, but he did not show by a single movement of the muscles of his face that he even heard this most unworthy taunt. It was different, however, with Lord Granville. Those who know the noble lord, and especially those who saw him serene and smiling when tortured by goit and goaded by the Opposition whilst the bill was in committee, are aware that he has a temper sweeter and more long-suffering than that of any other statesman. But now he seized the first opportunity of springing to his feet, and when he did so his pale face, quivering lips, and flashing eyes expressed the passionate indignation that had been aroused by Lord Salisbury's speech. In a speech as severe as it was dignified, he administered to the noble marquis a rebuke which must have produced something like regret even in Lord Salisbury's usually impetuous heart; whilst at the same time he besought the House to rise with the occasion, and not at a moment of such importance to lend itself to flippant jesting and unseemly personalities. Then followed something like tumult. For a quarter of an hour Lord Derby, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Granville, Lord Eversley, and the Duke of Marlborough, literally fought together over a point of order, bandying about recriminations in anything but an edifying manner. At last the Lord Chancellor was allowed to speak, and he once more achieved a splendid personal triumph. Nothing could be finer than the stinging reproof he administered to Lord Salisbury, the quotation from Shakespeare coming into the middle of his speech with admirable effect; whilst he evidently wounded the self-conceit of Lord Grey by the dignity with which he refused to allow that noble lord to be the arbiter of his honour. It was noticeable, however, that when he took up the imputation upon Mr. Gladstone, the loud cheers of his own party were met by counter cheers coming from the clique on the cross benches—the Russells, Greys, Clanricardes, and Cambridges. Better proof of the fact that the opposition of these noblemen arises from pure personal hostility to the Prime Minister could hardly have been given. The next noticeable incident was an extraordinary speech from Lord Winchelsea, in which he likened Mr. Gladstone to Jack Cade, and offered to lay his own head upon the block if need be in defence of the privileges of the House of Lords. Poor Lord Winchelsea!

THURSDAY IN THE LORDS.

The scene in the House of Lords when Lord Cairns made his statement was a very curious one. I am inclined to believe that the majority of the Peers were quite in the dark as to what had happened, and the disgust with which not a few of their number regarded the "compromise," which was in reality only an honourable surrender, was evident. Nevertheless, only two members of the House, Lord Bandon and the Bishop of Tuam, ventured to give expression to their feelings. As for those who have been the chief actors in the stirring scenes of the past few weeks, with one exception, they all expressed their delight at the termination of the strife in language so enthusiastic as almost to be ludicrous. Even Lord Grey was amiable for once, and seemed inclined to admit that there was a possibility—a remote one it was true—not that he might have been in the wrong, but that one or two other persons might have been in the right. It was, however, very curious to note the way in which the Tory Lords seemed to plume themselves upon the fact that they had accepted a bill which they detested. They still mourned over the martyred Church that was to go out upon the world bereft of everything but its churches and a round sum of ten millions sterling; but they now "recognised the verdict of the nation," and were willing to bow to it, as an act of grace and virtue. They did not say that it was an act of necessity also. The one exception to the general hand-shaking and "making-it-up" which was witnessed was poor Lord Derby. He was in his place whilst Lord Cairns was speaking, but the moment the ex-Chancellor concluded he rose, and with a defiant glance at the opposite benches, walked out of the House, speaking to no one. He is strangely broken in appearance within the last twelve months, and it is to be feared that he will not have many more opportunities of fighting for the losing cause with which he always loves to ally himself. Strange to say, Mr. Gladstone was also absent

from the touching scene of reconciliation. There were alarming rumours as to his serious illness current at one time during the evening, but these were happily disproved by the presence of his wife and daughter in the gallery of the House of Lords.

THE LAST DEBATE IN THE COMMONS.

The curtain rose upon the last act of the drama on Friday afternoon. There was a crowded House. Lord Granville was, as usual, sitting over the clock; near him was the Bishop of Peterborough, whilst one or two other "distinguished strangers" were scattered about the boxes that we have so often seen crowded during the present session. Some doubt was expressed as to whether Mr. Gladstone would be able to be present, for it was known that he was still very weak and far from well. The shout of applause which was sent up by the Liberal ranks when he did appear showed how pleased everybody was that the task of pronouncing the final speech of the play was to fall upon him and nobody else. Of that speech itself it is difficult to speak too highly. It was one of those occasions upon which the Prime Minister shines to the greatest advantage as an orator. His physical weakness, though plainly visible at first, was overcome ere he had proceeded far, and the gracefulness, the lucidity, and the eloquence with which he explained to the House the precise meaning of the "compromise," and did his best to close for ever the great gulf of party conflict in which the Irish Church Establishment has disappeared, could not have been surpassed. He spoke throughout amidst the cheers of both parties; and the leaders of the Opposition were visibly touched by his generous tribute to the manner in which they have conducted the cause of the Irish Church—a tribute which, though well-deserved by them, could not have been applied to all their followers. The readiness, too, with which Mr. Gladstone withdrew his "balloon" simile, which gave so much offence to the Lotus-eaters of the Upper House, ought to teach a lesson to Lord Salisbury by which, it is to be hoped, he will not be slow to profit. The closing words in which the Irish Church was sped on its new career amidst the good wishes of the Government and the House of Commons were delivered with all the force and eloquence of which Mr. Gladstone is a master, and were re-echoed by the cheers of the House. The debate which followed did not last long, and soon after four o'clock the last discussion on the Irish Church Bill in Parliament was brought to a close.

Postscript.

Wednesday, July 28th, 1869.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, Lord DUNNAN, on the joint suggestion of Lord DUFFERIN and Lord CAIRNS, withdrew the Tenants' Purchase by Instalments (Ireland) Bill; and on the motion of the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, the order for going into committee on the Tenure of Land (Ireland) Bill was discharged.

The Earl of CARNARVON then called attention to the position of affairs in New Zealand, and suggested that some one possessing the confidence both of the Government and the colonists should be sent out to inquire into the various questions which are now pending. Earl GRANVILLE, while doubting whether the course suggested would be productive of any good result, argued that it was most important that the Colonial Government should undertake the full responsibility of doing whatever was necessary to keep in check the tendency to rebellion, and should maintain a conciliatory policy towards the natives. The Bishop of LICHFIELD maintained that it was the duty of the Home Government to help the colonists out of their difficulties, and asked the Government to assist them in raising a loan to relieve those settlers whom it was necessary to remove from disturbed districts. Lord LYVEDEN argued that the colonists should be left to themselves; and the subject dropped. Their Lordships adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

At the day sitting of the Commons, the report of Supply having been brought up and received, the order of the day for the committee on the Scotch Parochial Schools Bill was proceeded with. In the discussion of Clause 3, Mr. BAUCS said he could not promise that the Secretary to the Board, which it is proposed to establish, should not be a minister of religion. The clauses, down to Clause 3, were agreed to, and the Chairman was ordered to report progress. The Metropolitan Poor Bill was read a third time and passed, and at ten minutes to seven the sitting was suspended.

The House was counted out immediately after its reassembling at nine o'clock.

We have much pleasure in stating that Mr. Gladstone, though still weak, is much better, and expects to return to London this afternoon.

Mr. Gladstone has offered the Deanery of Durham to Dr. Temple; but he has declined it upon the ground of his engagements and his interest in Rugby School.

Numerous arrests have been made in connection with the Carlist rising in Spain, and letters have been discovered from which we learn that a general rising was intended to have taken place on the 23rd. It is stated that Espartero has offered his services to the Government if necessary.

We learn from Paris that an official contradiction has been given to the report that the Government intends to dissolve the Legislative Body.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The market was again scantily supplied with English wheat. For both red and white produce the trade was quiet, at Monday's quotations. There was a fair quantity of foreign wheat on the stands. Sales progressed slowly, at late rates. Moderate supplies of foreign barley were on offer, but scarcely any English. The inquiry was restricted. Nevertheless, full prices were realised.

AT the HALF-YEARLY MEETING of the DEPUTIES of PROTESTANT DISSENTERS of the three Denominations, Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist, appointed to protect their civil rights, held at the TERMINUS HOTEL, Cannon-street, on the 21st JULY, 1869, CHARLES REED, Esq., M.P., in the chair, it was resolved unanimously:—

That the Irish Church Establishment has always been a grievance to the people of Ireland.

That the Deputies viewed with satisfaction the introduction of the Irish Church Bill into Parliament by the Government, and its passage through the House of Commons by large majorities, and they hoped that the House of Lords would respect the public opinion of the country thus clearly expressed in the House of Commons.

That the attempts made in the House of Lords to retain nearly the whole of the Church property for the use of the disestablished Church, and to provide for the endowment of the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian Churches, by the gift of glebe-houses and lands for the use of the ministers of those denominations, are contrary to the principles embodied in the Bill, and will be strenuously resisted by the Nonconformists of this country.

The meeting is of opinion that the Bill as altered by the House of Lords would not remove the grievance now existing, and would create fresh causes of dissatisfaction; and the Deputies respectfully but earnestly request the Government not to accept such of the amendments made by the House of Lords as are opposed to the principles of disestablishment and disendowment.

C. SHEPHEARD, Secretary.

73, Coleman-street, E.C.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1869.

SUMMARY.

On Monday next the French Senate will assemble to put into definite form the concessions vaguely conceded in the Emperor's recent address. Though M. Rouher will be present to help in restricting these boons within the narrowest possible compass, many of the senators, such as M. De Sartiges and M. De Maupas, are, it is said, disposed to insist on a very liberal programme. Meanwhile the Legislative Body stands adjourned to October, and the Left Centre of 116 members having given a fresh adhesion to their proposed interpellation, have suspended further action. Not so the Left. At a meeting of this section of the Opposition, M. Thiers has endeavoured to unite all the advanced Liberals in a joint manifesto to the country. But his efforts were fruitless. The members most opposed to the Imperial régime can only agree to differ, and seem at present quite incapable of exercising that restraint and discipline which are necessary to insure success. Their want of cohesion is as obvious and injurious as Napoleon III.'s remarkable irresolution, and their energies are exhausted in individual protest against the prorogation of the Chamber, and the continuance of personal government. French politicians have no enemies so formidable as their own waywardness, nor will their countrymen be disposed to insist upon organic changes, however desirable, if the Liberal leaders continue to quarrel amongst themselves, and denounce each other.

The Carlist banner has been raised in Spain, though apparently with little prospect of success. One considerable band of invaders has been defeated with great loss near Ciudad Real, and dispersed. But Don Carlos has himself crossed the frontier, and a good deal of agitation prevails throughout the country. In his favour is the increase of pauperism, the slackness of trade, and the growing dissatisfaction with the present state of things. Taxation has been greatly increased, but the revenue declines, and the authority of the Government is set at naught. Prim, who is both President of the Ministry and head of the army, has abundant troops to put down rebellion, but no panacea for popular discontent or Spanish indolence. But Prim can hardly find the wherewithal even to pay his soldiers. A reactionist like Don Carlos ought not to have a chance; nor would he if the Liberal leaders thought more of the public needs than their own personal interests, and were not so prone to put off till to-morrow all the difficulties of to-day—to exhaust the treasury in a vain

effort to retain Cuba, while national bankruptcy stares the country in the face.

The last week will be among the most memorable in our Parliamentary annals. To the ominous storm raised in the House of Lords on Tuesday succeeded quiet negotiations between Lord Cairns and Earl Granville on Wednesday. The Tory fire-eaters, who had threatened a grave constitutional crisis, were mild as lambs when Lord Cairns explained the terms of arrangement on Thursday night, and accepted them almost *en bloc*. The Commons on the following evening emulated the conciliatory demeanour of the Peers; and on Monday evening the Irish Church Bill needed only the formality of the Royal assent. Those Protestant zealots who may have hoped that the Queen would in the last resort withhold her sanction, were doomed to disappointment. It was given with the usual formalities by Commission. Nothing could be less dramatic than the scene in the gilded chamber on Monday night. Not a single peer was present except the Lords Commissioners, and the Commons were represented by only a score of members. Along with a few small measures and railway Bills, the Irish Church Bill received the necessary imprimatur of the Crown, and the separation between Church and State in Ireland was consummated by a meagre ceremony which lasted only a few minutes.

The great struggle being over, Peers and Commons have fled from the scene of fierce conflict to the German baths, the sea-side, or their country retreats. A handful of members in each House remains to wind up the work of the Session. On Saturday week the Ministers will eat their well-earned whitebait dinner, and on the following Tuesday Parliament is expected to be prorogued. Quite apart from the Irish Church Bill, the Session will not be without fruits. The Endowed Schools Bill has been allowed to pass through the Upper House, and their Lordships have been so forbearing that the several measures for reforming the law of bankruptcy are now safe. No difficulties are likely to impede the Electric Telegraphs Bill, and probably the Commons may allow the Habitual Criminals Bill, which has passed the Upper House, to go through without serious discussion. This is a fair list of measures for a season which has been mainly absorbed in discussing and perfecting a revolution in our ecclesiastical policy!

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS BILL.

THE Bill which has for its object the transference to the Post-office Department of the rights, property, and plant of the existing Telegraph Companies, having undergone the ordeal of a Select Committee of the Commons, was pushed through a Committee of the whole House on Monday night. The principle of the measure, the soundness of which we find ourselves unable to endorse with implicit confidence, was all but unanimously accepted by Parliament last Session. There is much, no doubt, to be urged in its favour, and, with the example of post-office administration before us, little except abstract considerations to be pleaded against it. It is certainly recommended by the fact that it lies within the power of Government organisation alone to give a system of telegraphic communication with all parts of the United Kingdom, at a uniform and moderate rate for all messages, irrespectively of distance. Its analogy, in this respect, with the penny postage, has put aside a host of objections which might otherwise have proved formidable. At all events, the country, not over-pleased with the administrative ability and energy of joint-stock undertakings, accepted the main principles of the measure as a foregone conclusion, and the present Bill is intended to give the new system legislative shape and completion.

The bargain which was made with the Telegraph Companies by the late Government is generally considered to have been needlessly, and even, as some hon. members characterised it, "preposterously" extravagant. Mr. Fowler, one of the members for Cambridge, produced striking evidence to the House of Commons on Monday night that the terms demanded and obtained by the companies for the surrender of their respective undertakings were such as to send up their shares to a very handsome figure indeed; and Mr. R. Torrens, his colleague in the representation, contended that, at the price paid, or rather pledged, for the property in question, it would be impossible to adopt a uniform rate of one shilling per message of twenty words, save at a loss to the Post-office revenue. Twenty years' purchase of the net profits of a business is unquestionably an unusually high price to pay for it under any ordinary circumstances. But when the present case is looked into with thorough impartiality

it is not, as Mr. Smith showed, quite so unreasonable as it appears at a first glance. Some liberality towards the shareholders was inseparable from the conditions subject to which the transference was to be effected. The object sought by the Government was regarded as a highly advantageous one to the public, and it was doubtless considered reasonable that the public should pay a proportionate price for it. The companies were left no choice but to sell—Government had sought them, not they the Government—and a sale under compulsion is commonly an expensive bargain for the purchaser. The business has been of late years a rapidly increasing one, and is obviously capable of large expansion. Indeed, the growth of profits since the agreement of the parties was concluded, has reduced the price given, as compared with the income which will be received, from twenty to something less than seventeen years' purchase. If, as Mr. Fowler insisted, twelve and-a-half years' purchase is as much as a really good business could command in the market, it is perhaps hardly matter of surprise that, in view of all the circumstances of the case, the companies should have claimed and secured four and a half years in addition.

At any rate, it is as well to take as resigned a view of the transaction as may be. The thing is done, and cannot honourably be undone. Parliament was too deeply pledged by its predecessor, or rather, perhaps, by its executory representatives, to entertain a thought of repudiating the compact. So it was felt on Monday. The agreement entered into was privately denounced by many an honourable member as a job, who nevertheless felt bound to carry it into effect. We are not by any means convinced that the bargain is what is commonly called a one-sided one. It is less open to censorious remark than that which episcopal and hereditary greed has extorted from Parliament in behalf of the Irish Church. In the former as in the latter instance, the policy sought to be promoted will turn out, we trust, more than worth the sacrifice made to secure it. Disestablishment and disendowment, whether enforced on Telegraph Companies or on Churches, are luxuries that must be highly paid for.

The only other matter of importance on which difference of opinion in the Committee on Monday night was carried to a division, was as to whether the monopoly of transmitting messages by electric telegraph, which the Bill conferred upon the Post Office, should be limited in the first instance to seven years' duration, or should be permanent. The Select Committee inserted words in the Bill which would have had the former effect. The Committee of the whole House, at the instance of the Marquis of Hartington, struck them out. Either way, we think, the question was one of very minor importance. A practical monopoly the Post Office is certain to secure, even in the absence of a monopoly sanctioned by law. If it does the work it undertakes to do, it will be all but impossible to compete with it—if it does not, Parliament can at any time revoke its decision. We should have preferred a *quasi*-probationary term—but we are not insensible to the advantage that may accrue from leaving it unlimited by law. The Post Office department will be made to feel its responsibility, we should hope, under the latter arrangement equally as under the former, and will perhaps conduct its new enterprise more boldly.

It only remains to anticipate the fruits which will probably enough grow out of the change thus sanctioned by public opinion. Until very recently, telegraphic communication has been but little resorted to save by the very well-to-do and affluent classes. When messages can be transmitted from any one part of the kingdom to any other at the moderate expense of a shilling for twenty words—ultimately, perhaps, of sixpence—all classes will habituate themselves to the use of the wire where there exists a sufficient object to obviate delay. Socially, as well as commercially, the change in prospect will probably, as in the case of penny postage, outrun speculation. The time is not very remote, we trust, when every considerable village will have its telegraphic station—when in reference to the more important events of life in this country, time will be all but annihilated—and when the thought which occurs to a man at the Land's End, may be flashed instantaneously, if he desires it, and at a very small draft upon his purse, to his friend at John O'Groats. Verily, we live in wondrous times!

THE FINANCES OF BRITISH INDIA.

THE Indian financial statement has, contrary to precedent, been made this year in the House of Lords, in consequence of the pressure of business in "another place." The change was appropriate enough. No vote is taken on the

subject, and no control can be exercised by the Imperial Parliament in July, upon a Budget which was accepted by the Legislative Council at Calcutta in May. A House which contains the Secretary of State for India, three ex-Ministers of that empire, and the last Governor-General, cannot be pronounced unfit to criticise the finances of India, or to offer wise suggestions for her future Government.

The Duke of Argyll's review on Friday, though mainly statistical, was fertile of suggestions, and full of interest to Englishmen who are disposed to take any interest in the concerns of the two hundred millions of our fellow-subjects in the East. It told of the satisfactory, if somewhat slow, progress since the great Mutiny which so nearly, ten years ago, brought British rule to a close in India. Just before that terrible outbreak the revenue was 33,378,026*l.*; up to last year it had increased to 48,354,412*l.*, or at the rate of forty-five and a half per cent. The great basis of revenue in our Eastern dependency is the land tax. From this source about twenty millions is now derived, and though the assessment has been lowered and the rate reduced, there has been a steady increase under that head in all the provinces; which, says his Grace, is largely to be attributed to the increase of cultivation and the general prosperity of the people. We need not go through the various other items of taxation which figure in the Indian Budget. The chief sources are the salt-tax, the most burdensome to the native community; the opium impost, the least defensible on moral grounds; the Customs duties, which have marvellously increased, though levied under a revised tariff; and the assessed taxes. During the ten years referred to the imports have increased from twenty-eight to forty-four millions, and the exports from twenty-six to fifty millions.

The Indian expenditure has more than kept pace with the revenue. The heaviest item is for the defence of the country, which, including the police force, swallows up nearly eighteen and a half million, or four and a half more than in the year before the mutiny. Then, the relative proportion of troops was, Europeans, forty-five thousand, and a quarter of a million natives; now it is eighty-five thousand Europeans, and about 120,000 natives. The total aggregate force is nearly 100,000 less, but European troops are very costly in India; and Lord Lawrence, with all the authorities on the subject, contends that the proportion cannot safely be reduced. Increased pay and better clothing to the troops, superior barrack accommodation throughout India, compensation for the dearth of provisions, and a more elaborate organisation of the military establishment, go to swell the total expense. Education now figures as a considerable item of expenditure, and law and justice, which mean the extension of small courts, swallow up an extra three quarters of a million. Then there are extraordinary public works, such as irrigation, costing from two to three millions annually, which are raised by special loan, besides ordinary public works paid out of the current revenue.

India has a public debt which now stands at nearly 100 millions, one half of which was brought about by the great struggle of 1857, and the interest of which is more than four and a half millions per annum. Another serious burden upon the Indian exchequer of late years has been the guaranteed interest of 5 per cent. on railways, which amounts to a bonus of three and a half millions. It has now been determined to put an end to this extra expenditure, which Lord Lawrence declares to be "enormous, excessive, and unreasonable." The Indian Government will in future construct their own railways. Some 4,000 miles are already completed which have cost no less than 18,000*l.* a mile, and are in many places badly laid. 7,000 more miles of railway have already been determined on. The late Governor-General estimates that not less than 30,000 miles will ultimately be required. By raising money on their own guarantee and by more economical construction, it is believed that the Indian Government will be able to save 6,000*l.* a mile, which as Lord Lawrence says, would not only recoup them the interest on borrowed money, but leave a margin to repay the capital vested.

Next year Lord Mayo anticipates a small surplus on the Indian Budget, should circumstances prove favourable. But such expectations have often been formed, but never realised. Sometimes the opium revenue fails, and too often frontier wars create a deficit. One year there was the frightful Orissa famine to impoverish the revenue; this year there has been a severe drought in the north-west provinces, Central India, and the Punjab, which has not entailed actual famine owing to the energetic efforts of the Government. To have warded

off so great a calamity over these vast regions, and saved thousands of lives, is a great credit to our administration. It is such things that vindicate our claims upon India, and attach the native population more firmly to our rule. The Duke of Argyll, and indeed all the speakers on Friday night, stated that it was hardly possible at present to increase, to any great extent, the productiveness of the Indian revenue. The Hindoos are taxed to their utmost capacity, and there seems little chance of a reduction of expenditure. It is, however, some satisfaction to know that steady progress is meanwhile being made in the development of Indian resources, and the elevation of the population. These extensive irrigation works, the multiplication of railways, and the grants for education, are so many means of increasing the prosperity and elevating the status of the various races of our Eastern Empire. They are so much capital wisely invested, which will tend to promote good government, to reconcile the natives more entirely to our way, and to increase indefinitely the wealth of our magnificent dependency.

THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

It is a satisfaction to hope—with a House of Lords ready to throttle every decidedly Liberal measure, we dare hardly say to expect—that we have witnessed the last of the long series of riotous and corrupt general elections in the United Kingdom. Before another appeal is made to the country we may expect to see the farce of public nominations abolished, and the restriction upon canvassing increased. The time is near at hand when the vote of every man will come upon the register by some self-acting process and be easily defensible, and we ought not to be far off the adoption of a method of voting which will, as far as is possible, protect the elector in the exercise of his privilege. The evidence taken before the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections Committee, so far as we are acquainted with it, seems to point so emphatically to the Ballot, that it is not surprising to learn that that plan of protection meets with growing favour among the unprejudiced members of the Committee.

To-morrow evening Mr. Vernon Harcourt proposes to ask if Her Majesty's Government will be prepared next Session to introduce a Bill to reform the registration of voters. This question is ripe for legislation than many of those which are down for consideration next year. The Select Committee which sat on the subject have concluded their labours and presented their report, which strongly condemns the agency at present in operation, and suggests a specific remedy. Indeed the large extension of the suffrage necessarily carries with it a reform in registration, unless the boon is to become "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare." "By the operation of the registration system as it works at present," we are told, "a large percentage of persons entitled to vote can only obtain the franchise by a troublesome and costly course of proceedings, instituted either by themselves or by others on their behalf." The injustice of exposing the Parliamentary voter to a number of vexatious and hostile influences, and of obliging him to fight for his rights, is self-evident. Liberal and Conservative Associations may perhaps keep many disqualified persons off the register, but, as the Committee justly remark, "It is notoriously difficult to discriminate between money legitimately employed in registration, and money which under the name of registration, is practicably employed to corrupt a constituency." By Mr. Goschen's Bill we have got rid of, or at least reduced to a shadow, the grievance of the compound householder, gratuitously created to meet the exigencies of the Tory party; and it is now only necessary so to simplify the registration machinery as to establish genuine claims to the franchise, without obliging working men to waste time and trouble which they can ill spare.

At present the primary lists of voters are prepared by the overseers of each parish—officials who have their hands full of their own work, and who, besides being scantily paid, are subject to slight responsibility. That task, it is now proposed, shall be committed to the "clerks to the assessment authority," including under this term the clerks to the assessment committee of poor-law unions, and, in places where such unions have not been established, the clerks to the vestry or the overseers. The committee suggest that the last day for qualification should be the 31st of May, and that the officials shall be allowed a month to perfect the registers. The lists, made out according to streets, and not as now alphabetically arranged, are to be placed for public inspection in each street, or at the police-station or post-office,

during the month of July, during which period due notice can be given to the registrar of names omitted or persons objected to, and as the result a second street list will be published. "On the 31st of August"—we borrow a description of the proposed arrangements from a contemporary—"a revised list of objections and claims will be published, with an entry opposite to each showing whether the vote has been allowed or disallowed. The registrar will also enter on the same list the names of any person whom he thinks it right himself on further inquiry to omit or insert in variance from the original lists. During the next fortnight notices may be given by persons who intend to persist in objections or claims which have been disallowed, or to oppose claims or resist objections which have been allowed, and on the 20th of September the final list of disputed cases reserved for the revising barrister will be published, and personal notices will be served on the persons whose votes are to be disputed. No one whose name does not appear in this final list will be called upon to attend the revising court. It is manifest that by some such plan as is here indicated, many of the difficulties attending the present cumbrous registration arrangements will be removed, and the minimum of trouble given to the individual elector.

When Parliament has offered every facility to voters to get upon the register, and to sustain their claims at the least possible trouble and expense, the next step will be to protect them in the exercise of their privileges. This will be the aim of Mr. Bruce's Committee, which may be expected to sit again next Session before adopting a final Report. The vote must not only be easily secured, but freely exercised. It will need to be guaranteed against corrupt and coercive influences as well as against legal snares and official carelessness. If any safeguards for this purpose can be devised short of secret voting, the Ballot may be dispensed with. If not, the Ballot we must have, spite of the antipathy of the Tory party, and the obstructiveness of the House of Lords.

SOCIAL REFORM IN THE COURTS AND ALLEYS.

THE ancient struggle between the apparently irreconcilable elements of civilisation and barbarism is still far from being terminated, even in this much favoured country, which we are never wearied of loudly extolling—in true vain-glorious spirit—as a brilliant example for emulation on the part of other nations amongst whom the rate of social advancement has been less rapid. There is no need, however, for us to travel so far as the American prairies where the Indian savage yet scowls in sullen defiance at the white invader, or to New Zealand wilds where exasperated Maories stealthily concoct dark plots for the ruthless massacre of unsuspecting settlers; for we have but to look at home to detect traces of the warfare ceaselessly going on, to find dwelling amongst us a people—a nation within a nation, as it were—whose inconceivably low and debased condition, both social and physical, is scarcely a whit less deplorable or disheartening than that in which the most degraded races of Southern Africa are to be found residing. The underground burrow of the African Earthman, the rude wigwam of the Indian savage, the rough stockade of the Maori, or the sooty snow hut of the Esquimaux, can scarcely suffer by comparison with many of the miserable hovels in which a considerable number of our metropolitan labouring population are compelled to reside, especially in the countless courts and alleys of the poorer districts. In not a few of these civilisation appears to have slowly retrograded into helpless and irreclaimable barbarism. Every refining and elevating influence has disappeared and become replaced by enervating and brutalising agencies of the worst and most mischievous character imaginable. It seems almost impossible that in this great English metropolis, "this proud, populous, wealthy, overgrown London, the home of nearly three millions of people, the resort of the intellect of the world," such a thing should be, yet—to our great shame and sorrow—the evil exists to this day. At the back of the bright thoroughfares where costly-robed fashion may daily be seen hastening to the "Row," or to witness the gallant exploits of aristocratic pigeon-shooters, are to be found the hideous festering and malignant social ulcers which society would fain put out of sight, yet which persist in obtruding themselves, even when most unwelcome, as if to sternly remind people of the grave social duties so long ignored by us as a nation.

No person who has not made himself acquainted by actual observation with leading characteristics of life in the myriads of loathsome courts and alleys scattered broadcast over the immense vastness of

our great cities—the social swamps and pitfalls that abound—can form any adequate idea of the really shocking condition peculiar to many of these dark and dangerous places. They form a region in which decency is wholly unknown, where crime flourishes as if nurtured in a hot-bed, where grim-faced poverty and cruel want are never absent, where ignorance is accounted a virtue, and where the name of religion is scarcely ever heard.

We talk of improved cottages, of the unprecedented liberality of an American banker or a kind-hearted lady in providing more suitable residences for the poor, but all that has hitherto been done in this direction is as nothing compared with what remains to be effected. It is a mere drop in the ocean. The body of the evil remains almost untouched. The large, showy piles of bricks and mortar, dignified with the name of "model dwellings," have not yet affected the much needed reform which was to convert our reeking courts and alleys into places more habitable for human beings, homes where the seeds of morality, intelligence, and order should not be prevented from germinating by the pestilential atmosphere which has so long spread contamination and disease around. Nor will it be otherwise until we learn to go to the actual root of the mischief, to the very courts and alleys themselves, as the "Metropolitan Society for Improving the Dwellings of the Labouring Classes" have quietly done over and over again; now in Drury-lane, now in Gray's-inn-lane, now in some other equally vile and squalid locality. The story of how Wild-court, in Drury-lane, became transformed from a veritable social pest-house, a filthy den where soul and body alike were miserably poisoned, into a bright spot where health, decency, and comfort might be found—a fertile oasis of good in the great social desert—furnishes the real clue to a successful solution of the problem as to what should be done, and if any corroboration of the touching and encouraging narrative is required, it is furnished by the somewhat startling experiences of Miss Octavia Hill in a Marylebone court, as eloquently related by her in the current number of *Macmillan's Magazine*. There is no need for us to discuss what is necessary to be done; that is sufficiently indicated by the lesson afforded by the history of the courts taken in charge by the Metropolitan Society and Miss Hill. Our real work is to profit by the results which have already been gained, and to steadily follow them up in the most comprehensive manner.

It is not charity, in the shape of mere alms, which the poor demand. They require to be assisted and encouraged in the work of self-help. Our duty is to make them men, not paupers. How to do this forms the substance of Miss Hill's article, from which it appears that Mr. Ruskin, whose practice in this respect seems to have been much more sensible than many of his rhapsodies, having, some four years ago purchased a court, consisting of nine tenements, situated in Marylebone, handed over the same to Miss Hill for the purpose of making the experiment just related by her. The purchase was by no means one of a most slightly character, for we are told that—

The houses were in a most deplorable condition. The plaster was dropping from the walls. On one staircase a pail was set to catch the rain which fell through the roof. The banisters were gone, having been burnt as firewood by the tenants. The grates were falling forward into the rooms. One dirty water-butt received the water laid on for all the houses, and, as it leaked, those who did not fill their jugs as the water came in, could have none afterwards. Facing the cottages was a bit of desolate ground, occupied by dilapidated cowsheds, manure heaps, and rubbish of every description.

The Marylebone court was not, however, much worse than most others of its class, either in the same neighbourhood or elsewhere; still, it seemed to be a very sorry investment for the thousand bright golden sovereigns which had been expended in its purchase. Not so thought Mr. Ruskin and Miss Hill, and the results proved them to be right. The houses were at once rendered as clean, decent, and respectable as carpenter, bricklayer, and painter could make them; ventilation and other sanitary essentials were carefully attended to; the once dirty, slop-pit of waste ground transformed into a healthful play-yard for the little ones, and all this without the loss of a farthing to Mr. Ruskin, the improved dwellings, occupied by people of the poorest class, actually yielding a dividend of five per cent. Here was practical philanthropy with a vengeance, and we can almost forgive our great art-critic some of his wild politico-economical extravagancies for having taught us such a valuable lesson. But there is more to tell. In this court, this home of the very poor, the gloomy and fear-inspiring cloud of distress and misery which, during late winters,

darkened the social horizon of the metropolis, has been unfelt, and why? Because the tenants were taught to be self-reliant, and to do anything rather than get into debt. They were never allowed, on any pretence, to be behindhand with the rent. "Pay or leave," was the sword which continually hung suspended over their heads. Very cruel, very hard-hearted, no doubt; yet it proved the greatest possible kindness; for they soon learned to pay the rent with punctuality, thus laying the foundation of those self-reliant habits which have since assisted so materially in improving their social position. But Miss Hill's experience in this matter is not new; it is identical with that gained by others who have devoted themselves to similar objects. The moment that a poor man is taught to rely on himself, rather than on the charity of the wealthy, for a livelihood, for the means of getting on, he has commenced his upward progress. Some of our philanthropic associations would do well to study this matter from Miss Hill's point of view. The immense sums of money poured into East London during its chronic periods of distress have done more than anything else to permanently pauperise the poor residents therein. What Whitechapel and Bethnal Green really want is a few more persons like Mr. Ruskin and Miss Octavia Hill, to infuse a little social sunshine into their existing pestiferous air. This, of course, requires money; but could not the trustees of the Peabody Fund turn their attention in this direction? The funds at their command would enable them to extend Miss Hill's work a hundred-fold!

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

M. Rouher has been appointed President of the Senate for the session of 1869. The new Ministers have submitted to the Emperor the basis of a *Senatus Consultum* which they had prepared. The Government organs declare that the reforms will be of such a liberal character as to satisfy all parties but the extreme Left. The *Public* of this evening goes so far as to say that "l'ordre du jour motivé" will be accorded; but this assurance is received with doubt, especially as M. Rouher is still hovering about Saint Cloud, and even attending Cabinet councils. It is said that M. de Sartiges intends to present to the Senate an interpellation more liberal even than that of the 116, and that M. de Maupas, the former Minister of Police, and Baron Brennier will support their colleague.

The *Conseils-Généraux* are convoked for the 23rd August. These General Councils have no political character, but they serve sometimes to show which way the country is moving. It was recently rumoured that the Senate was to be made partly elective, the elections to be vested in the *Conseils-Généraux*.

It is denied that the French Government has sent any despatch to its Minister at Rome with respect to the Oeconomical Council. It is also denied that the troops in Algeria have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to return to France. The statement of the *Public* of diplomatic changes at St. Petersburg is contradicted.

All the papers are agreed in attributing to the Emperor the following "finality" speech:—"By my message to the Corps Législatif I have crowned the political edifice. The new *Senatus Consultum* will be the last liberal concession that I can make."

The *Tiers-Parti*, at a meeting held on Tuesday, adopted a resolution to the effect that, persisting in the views and principles laid down in their proposed interpellation, they adjourned until the reassembling of the Chamber.

At a meeting of the Left M. Thiers presented and explained a protest which he had drawn up against the attitude of the Government towards the Chamber. He, at the same time, developed a political programme, which was rejected by the Democratic Deputies present as being of too monarchical a tendency. M. Jules Favre spoke in favour of preserving for the present a silent attitude. MM. Picard, Keratry, and Tachard advocated a dissolution of the Legislative Body. This view was, however, opposed by M. Grevy, and no conclusion was arrived at. The idea of a joint manifesto has been abandoned, and the members of that party have already commenced to protest against the Imperial policy individually. Two protests appear in the papers, one from M. Ferry, of Paris, and the other signed by Messrs. Jules Simon and Larrien, of the Gironde. The Gironde state that France wishes to be mistress of peace and war, of her own finances and legislation, and desires the country shall govern the country by means of responsible Ministers. The Gironde demand that official candidature shall be abolished, that maires shall in future be elected by their fellow citizens, that the law of general surety shall be suppressed, and the liberty of the press and right of meeting accorded. M. Ferry's address to his constituents of Paris is equally moderate. Either the protest laid before the Left in council by M. Jules Simon must have been of a very different character to the document addressed to the citizens of Bordeaux, or people must err grievously in their estimate of the character of the Irreconcilables. It is believed that one of M. Jules Favre's reasons for objecting to a manifesto was that it would really be impossible for the meeting to express all they felt in regard to the acts of the chief of the State; he was,

therefore, of opinion that the Left would show more wisdom in remaining silent than by giving utterance to only half what they thought.

M. Keller, an important member of the Corps Législatif, has issued a manifesto which may be supposed to speak the mind of the Catholic section of the Chamber. This Ultramontane gentleman tells his constituents that he desires to represent them in reality, and to live with them on intimate terms, and for this reason he explains why he signed the interpellation of the 116. He starts by saying that he would have willingly supported the Government had he found it desirous of repairing past errors, which have compromised religion, politics, and finance. Unfortunately, adds M. Keller, under the present Constitution, the smallest criticism touches the Emperor. Whilst all officials, down to the maires, under the celebrated Article 76 of the Year VII, enjoy a kind of inviolability, the responsibility of their acts accumulates on the head of the chief of the State. Under these circumstances all discussion is dangerous for him; the slightest modification becomes difficult; in order to escape the blame with which he is continually menaced, he is forced to make use of the immense power which centralisation places at his disposal to discipline electors and assure for his policy the sanction of universal suffrage. It was to get out of this vicious rut that the 116 demanded the re-establishment of responsible Ministers. Having to find fault with the policy of the Government they solicited in the most respectful manner the means of doing so without the person of the Emperor being called in question. Further on M. Keller says that centralisation entirely destroys the effect of universal suffrage, and that the demand for responsible Ministers comprehended free elections and Ministers having the confidence of the country.

This is what the 116 demanded with scrupulous moderation, in order that the pacific character of the interpellation should be preserved. But how did the Government reply to this act? In a manner never seen before it suddenly prorogued the Chamber before it had finished its verification of powers, and at the same time that it got rid of our presence it retained nearly all the Ministers whose conduct had been blamed. The sudden prorogation and retention of Ministers are significant. If the Sovereign had made serious concessions to the country, he would have obliged us to act with moderation towards him.

M. Keller then makes similar demands to those made by the Gironde, Messrs. Jules Simon and Larrien, adding that the country has ceased to abdicate, and intimating that if the Emperor will insist upon being alone responsible he will be made responsible with a vengeance. These parliamentary tendencies on the part of an Ultramontane leader are sufficiently remarkable.

SPAIN.

The Carlist outbreak has assumed more serious proportions, and blood has been a shed. It is reported to have occurred on Saturday night, near Ciudad Real, between a band of 500 to 600 Carlists under Sabaruge and troops under Commander Formaseli. The Carlists were defeated and dispersed, many having been killed and wounded. Much agitation exists in many places, but no further outbreaks have been reported. Tranquillity prevails in Madrid. Thus far the *Times* correspondent. The *Daily News* correspondent adds that much agitation prevails in Gerona, Toledo, Tarragona, Valladolid, Almeria, and other places. The Government is very active, and well prepared for anything that may happen. Reuter informs us that the *Official Gazette* publishes a decree setting in force the martial law of April 17, 1821, in reference to conspirators against the public tranquillity. This decree is preceded by a long explanation of the motives which have led to its issue.

A conspiracy has been discovered to seize the citadel of Pampeluna. It has been frustrated by Colonel Ragunera. Amongst the prisoners who have been taken there are a priest, a retired officer, an artillery captain, and two Carlist agents, one of whom, a marquis, is badly wounded. The principal agent was killed. The volunteers of Tarancon have fought with and defeated a party of Carlists, one of whom was killed. Carlist agitation continues in many places, and especially in Cordova. Don Carlos has succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the French authorities, and has entered Spain near Arenas.

AMERICA.

The American Government appear to think that there is further danger of filibustering expeditions to Cuba. A cable telegram informs us that 140 of Colonel Ryan's men have been discharged under parole not to violate the neutrality laws.

The *New York Tribune* of the 15th inst., says there is reason to believe that Caballero de Rodas has been instructed to offer self-government to the Cubans; and furthermore that the leaders of Spain, and especially General Prim, "have been, or are, in favour of selling the island."

The Republican Convention in California has passed resolutions endorsing the policy of the present Administration, and the action of Congress concerning the Alabama claims, and favouring a demand for full reparation for all losses sustained by the commerce of the United States through the Confederate cruisers which started from British ports.

According to communications published in the San Francisco papers a plan is nearly ripened to separate the States of Chihuahua and Sonora from the Mexican Republic, together with Lower California, Sinalva, and part of Jalisco.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Kirghese tribes, south and south-west of Orenburg, are said to have risen on masses against the

Russians. Turkestan is believed to be in a disturbed condition.

Vast preparations are being made for the marriage of the Emperor of China this year. He is now fifteen. His destined wife was selected last year.

Great preparations are being made at Constantinople for the reception of the Empress of the French.

General Garibaldi writes to a correspondent in London that he does not intend to come to England at present.

Disturbances are reported from the Polish city of Cracow. The close confinement of a nun for twenty years in a Carmelite convent is said to be the cause. The doors and windows of the building were broken open by the crowd, and a strong body of military had to be called out to restore order. On the following night there was a renewal of the disturbances. Forty persons have been arrested.

THE FRENCH AT ROME.—The *Weekly Register* is enabled to state on the very best authority from Paris that the occupation of Rome will not cease. No matter what may be the changes of Government in France, the Emperor is determined to support the temporal power of the Pope. The incoming of a Liberal Government will make no difference in this policy.

CHINESE LABOURERS FOR THE SOUTHERN STATES.—A movement is on foot for the introduction of Chinese labourers into the Southern States of America. A number of these labourers are already employed there, and the planters are said to be exceedingly well pleased with them. The *New York Times* says they are not only patient and faithful workers, but seem well adapted to the climate and industries of the South. The Mississippi Valley, it adds, would feed and pay a hundred millions of these Mongolians, and China has a hundred millions she could easily spare.

FRANCE, AUSTRIA, ITALY, ROME.—It is confidently affirmed at Rome (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*) that a formal treaty is concluded between France, Austria, and Italy, by which France, in case of war, will be supported by Italy with a contingent of 50,000 men, while Italy will also occupy the province of Viterbo. On the other hand, it is stated in official circles that Prussia has promised the Pope 12,000 men, in the event of his abandonment by France. But, in spite of these statements, the authorities seemed to be assured of French support, as workmen are now engaged in demolishing the last of the barricades raised against the Garibaldians.

THE PROSPECTS OF GOLD-DIGGING IN NATAL are said to be improving. A mining company had fitted out forty Australian diggers to work. The arrival of the steamer bringing out a German exploring expedition, formed under the auspices of the Prussian Government, was hourly expected. Sir John Swinburne was busy quartz-crushing. Herr Mauch had arrived in Potchefstroom, but, although he was very near at one time to the supposed site of the ancient Ophir, the natives would not permit him to go there. Diamonds were being constantly received at Cape Colony frontier towns from the up-country districts, and had become a staple of auction sales.

THE EMPRESS CHARLOTTE.—A melancholy little incident is related of the ex-Empress Charlotte. This unfortunate Princess has been staying for some time at Spa. The other day she insisted with such vehemence on playing at roulette that it was impossible to restrain her. On approaching the table she deliberately placed a gold piece on the number 19. The Emperor Maximilian was shot on June 19. The wheel turned, and though thirty-seven chances were against her, she won. She smiled sadly, took up the money, and quietly left the room. On her way out a poor man passed by. She gave him all the money, with the injunction that he was to "pray for him." It is known that the Empress Charlotte never pronounces the name of Maximilian.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE DOMINION OF CANADA.—The *Times* correspondent says the policy of the Imperial Government respecting this Dominion has taken form and shape, and it is clearly seen on both sides of the Atlantic that the British-American provinces must at no distant date assume responsibilities to which they have hitherto been comparative strangers. So far as your side is concerned, there seems to be but one object in view; as regards this side, there is every inclination to recognise the object, and to further it in every way. Confederation was the result of a joint effort, and though the Dominion is steadily approaching consolidation, there is much work yet to be done, which will require all the influence of the Imperial authorities to bring to a successful issue.

DONATION TO THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN.—The first part of a donation of 10,000 Bibles, which the United Presbyterian Hall Missionary Society is sending out to the emancipated slaves in America, was shipped last week at Glasgow, in the steamship Europa, of the Anchor line, to New York. The rest of the donation, for which the students are now collecting money, will be sent out in September, when the advocacy of the scheme will close. The United States Government has announced that it will pass the 10,000 Bibles in free of all duties and charges; and Messrs. Handyside and Henderson, of the Anchor line, have indicated their sympathy with the object by undertaking to carry the whole donation across to New York freight free. The Bibles have been supplied at reduced prices by the National Bible Society of Scotland.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF FRANCE.—We often hear of the formidable army of functionaries on whom the French Emperor depends for the safety of his administration—the vast army of civilians which exists in addition to that of soldiers; but its numbers

and its organisation are not often brought distinctly before us. We find, from a late return, that France is administered by 502,818 persons, who are employed by the Government, and who cost the country 341,417,672 francs, or somewhat more than thirteen and a half millions sterling. The Emperor and his family figure in the budget for 26,500,000 francs, or about 1,060,000*l.* The Senate receives 5,100,000 francs; the ministers, 1,060,000 francs; the prefects, 4,000,000 francs, and so on. But the curious point to be noticed is that these 502,818 persons employed by the Government correspond very nearly in number to the figure which constitutes the majority of the Government on the late general elections.

STRANGE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON.—The *Ministre des Travaux Publics* has appointed a commission of savans to examine and report on a geological phenomenon which lately occurred near the village of Murat, Auvergne. Some workmen engaged in sinking a shaft through a stratum of volcanic rock had for some days noticed a rapid increase in the heat of the soil, which at last became too hot to touch with the naked hand. Having arrived at the depth of fifty-three metres, they were much alarmed to find the rock shaking under their feet, and the bottom of the shaft gradually bulging upwards into a conical form. They immediately rushed to the cage and gave the signal for being drawn up, but before they had reached the mouth of the pit a loud explosion was heard, and a large mass of hot water and steam was projected from the shaft, severely scalding several of them. The water continued to rise without interruption for ten hours, when, having completely filled the well, it overflowed and formed a stream, which has since been running through the adjoining meadows into the river. This new hot spring is strongly impregnated with arsenic, and its temperature is 130 degrees Fahr.

THE POPE.—The Pope has been thrown into great affliction by the death of his brother, Count Gabriel Mastai, who a few days ago broke his leg, and by this accident terminated his life, in his eighty-eighth year. Yesterday the Holy Father convoked at the Vatican an extraordinary congregation or council of cardinals. The object of this measure, at a time when His Holiness is plunged in grief, no one can divine; but it probably has reference both to the state of affairs here, and the concessions made to public opinion by the Emperor Napoleon in France. The Vatican feels that the pressure which has overcome so powerful a sovereign must eventually prevail in Rome, and the prospect excites consternation in priestly circles. The Pope goes about murmuring "Speriamo," but he is very dejected and constantly out of temper. This doubtless arises from his everywhere meeting signs of discontent. The illicit speculations of men in power have raised the price of bread, though there is abundance of corn, and the Holy Father never appears in public without eliciting cries of "Santo Padre, pane, pane!" A few days ago some women followed him with this cry to the Convent of Santa Ruffina. The Pope sent for the Marquis Cavalletto, who promised, if the Government would assist and support his measures, to effect an immediate fall in the price of bread, but Cardinal Antonelli refused this co-operation. Thus thwarted by his Minister, the Pope vents his irritability on all around. Yesterday he inflicted a penance on the whole court by going to the *Scala Santa*, or Stairs of Pilate, and mounting to the top on his knees. Of course all the high functionaries were obliged to follow, and it was a rare sight to see the throng, old and young and alim and fat, kneeling their way up stair by stair with the Pope at their head, the dark ages lingering at the end of the nineteenth century.—*Rome Correspondent of Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

The harvest in the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Berks, and Bucks is following closely upon the heels of the hay-making. Several fields of oats have been cut in the neighbourhood of Windsor and Staines. The wheat and barley also are very rapidly ripening, so that in a few days the harvest operations will be in full force, the prospect in general being good, the wheat never looking more promising.

Wheat harvest has already commenced in mid-Devon. On Friday last Mr. J. Lee, of Warrens Farm, Crediton, reaped a field of eight acres; and Mr. Hallier, of Dunsford, began reaping on the same day.

A sample of new barley was offered in the market of Ashby-de-la-Zouch on Saturday. It is stated to be earlier than ever was known for new barley to be shown in Ashby market, or indeed in any midland county.

A report from Ongar, Essex, states that in that neighbourhood the wheats are looking well, but peas and potatoes are suffering from the want of moisture. The barley crops are also not looking so well as could be wished.

The agricultural districts of North and East Yorkshire are now suffering much from a protracted drought, there having been no general rain since the middle of June. Pastures and aftergrass are burnt quite brown; corn, cake, and hay are being given to the stock in the fields. Turnips are going "off," though if rain were to come the crop would never have been better. As a set off, however, the fine weather has wonderfully improved the wheat and barley crop, which now promise well. On Monday there were some showers in Leeds and its neighbourhood.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD, N.—During the past week 1,456 applications have been attended to, including those of 469 new patients.

Colleges and Schools.

EAST OF ENGLAND NONCONFORMIST GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The first distribution of prizes in connection with this institution took place at Bishop Stortford on Wednesday. The school was inaugurated on the 23rd of September, 1868, and in the address of the Rev. T. Binney on the occasion the object of the promoters was thus set forth:—"It is a Nonconformist school; it is intended for the use of Nonconformist families; and its object is to secure for them that general literary culture which might be obtained in various other public schools, but which, in them, could only be received in connection with a course of religious teaching to the character and tendency of which Dissenters, as such, whether rightly or wrongly, strongly and conscientiously object." The general course of education embraces instruction in the Greek, Latin, French, German, and English languages, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, natural philosophy, history, and geography. The school has at present three exhibitions of 15*l.* each per annum, tenable for two years by boys who have taken a first class in the local examination of the University of Cambridge, and a *John's Foundation Scholarship* tenable for two years by a native or resident at Bishop Stortford, or an adjoining parish. It is intended to found immediately an exhibition of 20*l.* per annum, to be held for two years by a pupil proceeding direct to some college in the University of Cambridge. A gold medal, the gift of Mrs. Bartlett; two prizes of 5*l.* each presented by John Crossley, Esq., of Halifax; prizes of 5*l.* each by Mrs. and Mr. Heard; and an extra prize by the Rev. W. Outhbertson for sermon reporting, were among the prizes distributed. Samuel Morley, Esq., occupied the chair.

There was a large attendance of the parents of the pupils and others interested in the prosperity of the institution. The proceedings commenced with reading of Scripture, praise, and prayer by the Rev. W. Outhbertson.

The Rev. Mr. ALLIOTT, Head Master, at the call of the Chairman read the examiner's report, which was in the following terms:—

The examiner begs to state to the board of Bishop Stortford Nonconformist Grammar School that, in compliance with their request, he has carefully examined the work of their school. No boy has escaped individual attention, and his examination has embraced every subject, as he understands, which has been studied during the past year. He has to report that he has found satisfactory evidence throughout of faithfulness on the part of the masters in the discharge of their duties, and of application and diligence on the part of the boys. Some few below the average are fairly compensated for by others decidedly above the average. And exactly the same remark holds good with regard to the different subjects of the same boys' study in many individual cases. In the bulk of the school there is evidently great variety of attainment and ability; but it is his duty to assure the committee that he has frequently during the process of the examination observed the marks of equal industry, and even painstaking endeavour, where the less amount of actual success may at present have been realised by the boy, which he reads as a trustworthy omen of good. The examiner has further to report that, amid the satisfactory positive evidence already alluded to of what has been taught by the masters and acquired by the boys, increased accuracy and thoroughness are much to be desiderated. He believes that two facts go a long way to account for this—namely, that the matter of examination has for a large portion of the school extended over a whole year's work, which is an excessive strain on boys; and that this obstruction was rendered worse by the admission at Christmas—so happily for the school in other respects—of so many new boys, whose gifts are not very easily put into training in so short a period as their first six months. He cannot forbear adding that nowhere has he found among the boys such a uniform and high average of merit as has been manifested by them in their replies to questions on Scripture history and religious subjects—a branch of their studies of such primary importance, but in comparatively rare instances adequately realised. The examiner has the honour to express to the Board his sincerest congratulations, and his best wishes on behalf of the future growing success of their noble enterprise.

PHILIP C. BARKER, M.A., LL.B.

July 21, 1869.

The Rev. P. C. BARKER having added a few words as to the precise impression made upon his mind by the examination which he had conducted, and of congratulation to the directors, the masters, and friends on the condition of the school,

The CHAIRMAN then proceeded to the special business of the day—the distribution of prizes. The following is the

PRIZE LIST.

CLASS I.—1. George Evans—gold medal. 2. John Laybank Glasscock—Tennyson, illustrated by Gustave Doré.

CLASS II.—1. Douglas H. Fraser—Stanton's Shakespeare, 3 vols. 2. John Morison—Boswell's Life of Johnson.

CLASS III.—First Division.—1. William Howard—Hallam's Middle Ages, 10 vols. 2. Frederick Bugg—Perry Anecdotes. 3. John Garrard, Tales of a Grandfather.

2nd Division.—Joseph W. East—Cast up by the Sea. J. L. Wood—Cast up by the Sea.

Voluntary Work (Arithmetic).—Francis Tyrrell. Essay.—1. R. J. Bryant. 2. Arthur N. Marsh.

CLASS IV.—1st Division.—1. William J. Eaden—Tom Brown's Schooldays. 2. Robert Hitch—Tom Brown's Schooldays.

2nd Division.—1. Philip H. Lockhart—Cox's Ancient Greece. 2. James C. Butcher—Cox's Ancient Greece. Divinity.—C. J. Dodd—Smith's Dictionary of the Bible.

Writing.—1. J. J. Wood—The Land and the Book. 2. S. Wheeler—Dickens's Child History.

Drawing.—E. Slater.—Flaxman's Homer.
Singing.—J. J. Dale.—Poets of the 13th Century.
Drilling.—I. W. N. Rooke.—Rural Sports. 2. John Myers.—McLaren on Training.
Good Conduct.—Walter M. Rook.—Milman's History of Jews.

[The prize for good conduct was awarded by vote of the pupils themselves.]

The CHAIRMAN said in times like these, which seemed pregnant with events, the importance of which seemed to grow in arithmetical progression, every boy should be led to feel that he has a future in connection with which he must exercise an influence. He did not expect to get a head of forty on the shoulders of fourteen, nor could the young judge of the results of conduct in such a manner as those who in actual life had witnessed such results. He was a believer in Latin, Greek, and mathematics, but he would also press upon youth the importance of paying attention to common things. Not a few of the boys he saw before him would probably be engaged in trade. He did not sympathise in the professions given by many for the professions; he believed that England had been made what it is by the integrity, perseverance, industry, and high principle which characterise the trading class of England. Lord John Manners had told them in some doggerel lines the unconcern which he felt as to other classes provided that "our old nobility" were secured to us, but the nobility itself would be very badly off without the trading classes. Lord Derby is now in receipt of an income of 300,000*l.*, the result of the industry of the trading classes of Lancashire. Among the common things he would press upon their attention were reading, writing, and arithmetic. He believed it to be gentlemanly to write well, but he had known men who were first-rate mathematicians, but who could not write intelligibly. He had recently had two letters, of which he had been unable to decipher the names of the writers, and in consequence had had to cut out the names from their letters, and paste it on the envelopes which contained the replies. He recently knew a case where a man lost an appointment of a lucrative character, for which he was otherwise well suited, because his writing was so bad. After all, in the battle of life, the result of his observation was that personal character is the matter which is most considered. There never was a time when reality of character was more needed. A truthful, pure man, with an enlightened religious conscience, would find that character would help him onward in life whatever his future might be. Let them hold that boy as a positive enemy who in conversation, habit, or books, should introduce any subject with the slightest tendency towards impurity. Nor let them be ashamed of religion. It was a manly thing to take God's Word, Master of ridicule, study it, and accept it as the sure guide through life. He often looked back with regret at the character of the education available when he was a lad, and thought of the greater advantages of boys in the present day. He was taken from school at a much earlier age than he thought it right to remove his children from school to active life. Not that he would have it understood that education should end when school was quitted. All that any teacher could do was to create an appetite for the acquisition of knowledge, which would be the work of the whole life. In the House of Commons he observed the power of cultivated intellect, how men of ordinary powers, from the fact that they can present a subject in forms that are attractive, exercise an influence perfectly marvellous, while men more richly furnished utterly fail to create any influence or impression on the part of those they address. He had watched the growing influence in this respect of some who have recently gone into the House. He would remind the boys before him who had been unsuccessful in winning prizes that, although they had been for the time distanced in the race, they were yet stronger and better for the effort which had been made. He congratulated the parents on the establishment of such a school, which he had not the slightest doubt was a school deserving of their confidence. There was no greater fortune which they could give their children than a good education. Taking two youths, one with a well-furnished mind, thoroughly well disciplined, going out into the world without a shilling in his pocket, and another without such discipline, and with what is called an independency left him by his parents, his experience would lead him to expect a much better future for the young man without the money, but whose brains had been well cultivated. In former times it was customary to apprentice boys at fourteen years of age for seven years. In his own house of business he never took a youth until he was seventeen, and then he was required to give proof of a good education. Parents would find now that their children would get on better if they delayed the first step. He urged parents to allow nothing to interfere with the confidential relations between themselves and the master. He believed there was no man in England in whom parents might feel greater confidence than in the Rev. Mr. Alliot. The report of the examiner was a most gratifying one, and he hoped that the future of the school would far exceed the hopes of its promoters, among whom he had much pleasure in being numbered. (Applause.)

The Revs. Dr. George Smith, S. Pearsall, R. Ashton, Isaac Perry, Esq., and O. Bartlett, Esq., afterwards made some congratulating remarks.

The Rev. A. ALLIOTT thanked the chairman for the excellent advice which he had given. He could assure him that their aim had been to give attention to those subjects which had been recommended to their notice. He had a very high opinion of the truthfulness of his pupils. Nor had they been taught to regard any amount of brains as compensa-

tion for the want of an honest life. He believed that, with some breaks and intermissions, there had been straight forward, persistent, conscientious work on the part of every one connected with the institution, from the highest to the lowest. He must express the gratitude which they all felt to the friends who had given those handsome prizes, to the gentlemen who had attended, and particularly to Mr. Morley for presiding. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. SMITH and Mr. MORLEY acknowledged the thanks thus presented to those who had taken part in the proceedings of the day.

The Rev. W. CUTHBERTSON, in moving a vote of thanks to the Rev. A. Alliot, and Messrs. Eam, Mitchell, and Langley, bore testimony to the excellent conduct and reverent manner which characterised the pupils in the chapel. There were now on the rolls of the school the names of seventy-three boys, and he had no hesitation in expressing his belief that the school would be a complete success. Although commercial success was a subordinate thought with the promoters as compared with the advancement of Nonconformist education, it was always intended that the school should commercially pay. If this had not been attained in the first year, in which there were extraordinary expenses, they would have felt no surprise, but the state of the finances led to the belief that this result would be obtained in the first year. He thanked his ministerial brethren and influential laymen for the countenance which they had given to this institution, the leading names of Nonconformity being found on their share-list. If parents were in doubt as to where to send their children, they could not do better than send them to the Nonconformist School at Bishop Stortford. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Mr. DAVIDS seconded the resolution, which was carried and suitably acknowledged.

At the close of the proceedings the pupils gave three hearty cheers for the chairman.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

Earl Granville arrived at Osborne on Saturday, and had the honour of dining with the Queen and the Royal family.

The Rev. George Prothero preached before the Queen on Sunday morning.

Friday was the anniversary of the birthday of the Duchess of Cambridge, when her Royal Highness attained her 72nd year. The Prince and Princess of Wales paid a visit to the Duchess yesterday morning, and during the day her Royal Highness received numerous visits from members of the aristocracy.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left London last evening for Wildbad, where her Royal Highness has been recommended to take the waters for a month or six weeks.

Prince Arthur leaves Woolwich next Saturday, on a term of nine months' leave of absence. Before his departure the Prince will be entertained by his brother officers of the Royal Artillery at a farewell banquet in the Artillery mess-room. His Royal Highness will embark at Liverpool for Canada on the 14th of August.

It is understood that the affairs of the Duke of Newcastle are likely to be arranged. The pending question of bankruptcy stands over till August, and some issues as to the title to the property of the Duke among his creditors remain in abeyance, and it is expected that some settlement will be effected between the various parties.

Mr. Alderman Dakin is the next in rotation on the list of aldermen who have not passed the civic chair, but the worthy alderman, acting under the advice of the eminent physicians by whom he has been attended during his long illness, has determined not to seek this year the honour. Mr. Alderman Bealey, who stands next in rotation, is, we believe, willing to serve for the ensuing year, if elected.—*City Press.*

The *London Scotsman* announces the serious illness of Mr. George Macdonald, the poet and novelist. Some few weeks since Mr. Macdonald, in company with Dr. Buchanan, left London for a cruise among the Shetland Islands in the yacht of Mr. Stephenson, of Edinburgh, the party intending afterwards to sail for Norway. Unhappily, during the cruise, Mr. Macdonald was suddenly seized with illness of so alarming a character, that it was deemed expedient to make for the nearest port without delay. The unfortunate gentleman was carried on shore, and remained in Shetland in a state of complete prostration for more than a fortnight. The symptoms having somewhat improved, Mr. Macdonald has since been brought to London, but he was so weak on his arrival that he had to be carried from the train to the carriage which conveyed him to his residence. Mr. Macdonald's complaint is, we understand, of the nature of imperfect circulation, in addition to which he is suffering from a most painful affection in the leg. Within the last few weeks he has recovered sufficiently to be removed to Derbyshire, whence better accounts of his condition, we are glad to learn, have been received, although he is still very weak.

It is understood that Parliament will be prorogued early in August. The *Observer* fixes the date as Saturday, the 7th; the *Times* does not hope that the session will end before the 10th.

Mr. Gladstone has had a smart attack of diarrhoea, which will probably prevent him from attending Parliament for a day or two. He is at Lord R. Cavendish's villa, near Okehampton. Miss Gladstone, who has been suffering from scarlet fever, is convalescent, and it is hoped she will be able to leave town in the course of the week.

Rumour says that when Mr. Disraeli heard of Lord Salisbury's ominous outbreak against Mr. Gladstone's "arrogant will," and his generally warlike advice to the Lords on Tuesday night, he scornfully remarked that "the young man's head was on fire."

The honorary degree of D.C.L. of Oxford University was conferred yesterday morning on Mr. H. W. Longfellow. A special Convocation was held for the purpose. There was a numerous attendance of ladies.

We understand that the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections Committee have resolved to take no more evidence, and that the evidence taken will shortly be published, together with a draft report by the chairman and resolutions proposed by Mr. Bright, both of which recommend the adoption of the ballot without recommending any particular system. The committee will meet next year to consider their report.—*Echo.*

A meeting of the members of the Reform Club was held on Thursday. There was a very crowded attendance. The recent action of a section of the committee in excluding (under the rule applicable to the temporary admission of strangers) an American gentleman from the privileges of membership, was discussed. More than one proposition was submitted for consideration, but ultimately, on the motion of Mr. Brown-Westhead, M.P., seconded by Mr. Brand, M.P. it was resolved that the committee be requested to reconsider the rule by which a single blackball excludes a foreigner. The discussion was carried on without acrimony, and the difficulty which had arisen may now be regarded as settled.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL. THE LAST DIVISIONS IN THE LORDS.

In the division which took place in the House of Lords on Tuesday night, thirty-eight peers who had supported the Government on the second reading voted with the Opposition. Amongst them were the Duke of Leinster, the Marquises of Bath, Salisbury, and Winchester; Earls Carnarvon, Cowley, Devon, Grey, Limerick, Loran, Nelson, Russell, and Somers; Viscounts Lifford and Sidmouth; and Lords Lytton, Lyveden, Stratheden, Talbot de Malahide, and Westbury. The Government was supported by the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earls of Denbigh and Shaftesbury, and the Bishop of Oxford. Twelve prelates voted with the Opposition.

Only one division took place in the Lords on Thursday night. On the motion for assenting to the Commons' reasons for rejecting the Lords' amendments to the 27th clause, which relates to ecclesiastical residences, a division was called by the Archbishop of Dublin, which terminated by the motion being carried by 47 to 17.

CONTENTS.		
Lord Chancellor	Barons	Lords
(Hatherley)	Shaftesbury	De Tabley
Dukes	Viscounts	Fingall (H. Fingall)
Beaufort	Halford	Foley (J. Foley)
Cleveland	Sydney	Granard (H. Granard)
Marlborough	Torrington	Hylton
Norfolk	Bishops	Lawrence
Marquises	Chesham	Leigh
Normanby	Lords	Lorton
Earls	Belper	Moson
Campden	Boyle (H. Boyle)	Northbrook
Clarendon	Orrery	Posey (H. Posey)
De Grey	Cairns	Portland (J. Portland)
Devon	Carnarvon	Sutton
Fortescue	Cowley	Somers (H. Somers)
Graville	Charlemont (H. Charlemont)	Stanley (A. Stanley)
Grey	Charlemont (L. Charlemont)	Stratheden
Kimberley	Clarendon (L. Clarendon)	Suffield
Lichfield	Dufferin and	Sundridge (D. Argyll)
Morley	Clarendon (L. Clarendon)	
Nelson	Colville of Colville	
NOT-CONTENTS.		
Archbishops	Bishops	Lords
Dublin	Derry and Raphoe	Denman
Exeter	Lichfield	Northwick
London	Tram, &c.	O'Neill
Salisbury	Lords	Redecliffe
De Voe	Clementine (H. Clementine)	Silchester (H. Longford)
Gough	Colchester	
Lifford		

MILL HILL SCHOOL.—An advertisement, announcing the reopening of this public school in October next, will be read by many with satisfaction. The names of those gentlemen who have consented to act as the vice-presidents (among whom is Dean Alford), trustees, and governors, entitle the school to the utmost confidence. But the best assurance of success must of course be found in the high literary position and lengthened scholastic experience of the head master. Dr. Weymouth is the first Doctor of Literature in the University of London. For many years he has conducted with great ability the Portland Grammar-school, Plymouth. The governors have wisely resolved to entrust him with the entire management of the school. He will be, as every head master in a public school ought to be, superior in every department. The selection he has already made of the gentlemen by whom he will be assisted, indicates the high character of the education he intends to maintain. With their help, combined with his own admirable qualifications for the work of tuition, and aided also by the stimulus afforded in the prizes and scholarships which will be at his disposal, there is every reason to believe that a large and flourishing school will soon again be established. Two lines of railway, with stations at Mill Hill, render the locality very accessible both from London and the country. A finer or more healthy site could hardly be found. The school is in no sense proprietary, but essentially a public school. We trust ere long it will rank among the highest in the kingdom.

Literature.

"SERMONS."

The Schools of Preaching are as diverse as the Schools of Painting, and we have various versions of Revelation, as well as of Nature. It is comparatively easy to make allowance for tradition and conventionalism, but it is not so common to remember how every human representation of the Divine is necessarily imperfect, and that a sermon as well as a picture must be a compromise. "We know in part, and we prophesy in part." No one sees anything as it is, and there is no speech nor language which can represent accurately and completely even our partial views. Our words and colours, our brushes and tongues are, however, quite equal to our abilities. They will be put away as childish things "when that which is perfect is come," but till then we must accept our circumstances, and we shall do all that is required of us, and all that is necessary, if we do all that we can.

Mr. Alexander MacLaren in his second series of "Sermons preached at Manchester," again proves the power of the pulpit, and as we study his work we find fresh ground for our faith and hope. He has spared no pains either in the choice of his subjects, or the method of their treatment. He has found something that he can say, and says it.

The Rev Stopford A. Brooke, M.A., Honorary Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, whose success as a biographer is well known, has disappointed us in his "Sermons preached in St. James's Chapel." His work looks as if it had troubled him, and it troubles us as we look at it. We are also reminded, somewhat unpleasantly, of Mr. Robertson. Mr. Brooke has tried to grapple with subjects after the manner of Robertson, and has failed. The petulance which he reveals in the letters of his friend he repeats in his own sermons. He has not accepted the limitations of the pulpit, and often speaks as a confused and disappointed man. All have to labour and bear burdens, but if any man takes the work which lies under his hand, and works at it with the might allotted to him, he will always find something to "comfort him concerning his work and toil of his hands." A minister of Christ, we should have thought, might have found some rest to his soul on a Sunday evening. We read, however (p. 159):—

"There is not a clergyman's house in England in which, after all the labours of the day, the great questions of theology are not discussed with an eagerness almost without former parallel in England."

"The clergy themselves run into all sorts of theories without clearly knowing whether they are going. They say they are pursuing truth; but there is no method in their pursuit. They are like men lost in an Australian wood, who run to and fro, and after many hours find themselves at the place they started from. Many, in despair of rest, rush to find it, and only find stagnation, in the Church of Rome."

The repetition of the teaching of Christ requires the repetition of His spirit. Mr. Brooke is constantly talking about "individuality," "originality," and "genius," e.g., pp. 184, 185.

"There broods over the generality an atmosphere of torpidity and slothful comfort, in which it is becoming more and more impossible for a man of genius or of heroic character to develop himself. . . . The general mediocrity becomes angry with a particular exhibition of excellence. The man himself increases this anger; for he will not bow down to the great golden image, he will not subscribe to the articles of commerce, nor swear allegiance to my Lord Prosperity. So it is (for I need not dwell on it longer) that men of genius, of individuality, are becoming rarer and rarer; their influence, when they happen to exist, of less and less power upon the money-getting classes."

Again, pp. 170:—

"This is the spirit which either cannot see, or, seeing, hates, men of genius. . . . The pitiable thing in English society now is, not only the difficulty of an original man existing in it, but that society is in danger of becoming of so dreadful a uniformity, that no original man can be developed in it at all. This, if anything, will become the ruin of England's greatness."

Mr. Brooke proceeds to say, pp. 171, "That 'Christ came, entirely original, &c.' But Christ was 'meek and lowly of heart,' and so He found 'His yoke easy and His burden light.'"

Our best artists are most scrupulous about faithfulness to nature, and regard any alteration or addition as an impertinence. They will not paint what they cannot see. There seems to us a want of reverence in preachers, when they tell us more about Christ than has been revealed. Amongst other instances of this want of taste, to say nothing more, we notice, p. 251:—

"The baptism of Christ was the culminating point

* *Sermons Preached in Manchester.* By ALEXANDER MACLAREN. Second series. (London: Macmillan.)
Sermons Preached in St. James's Chapel, York-street, London. By the Rev. STOPFORD A. BROOKE, M.A., Honorary Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen. (London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.)

of that spiritual development of His inner life of which we have spoken, and it is symbolically described as reaching its completeness by the descent of the Spirit upon Him. It was a moment then of ecstatic joy, of the highest consciousness of inspiration. Two dominant thoughts, as we have already suggested, were with Him; the first, that He was the very Son of God, perfect as one with the Father; the second, that He was the destined Redeemer of the race. These were realised by His human soul in the hour of the baptism with an overwhelming sense of inspired joy. We may have felt this ourselves in a less degree. Conscious of some great idea which has lived with us a hidden life for months," &c.

There is no preface to this volume, but from the single note in p. 317, we learn that the author is indebted to "Life in Nature."

Mr. MacLaren has done his best. He has spared no trouble in his studies, and he does not spoil his work in the finishing. He grinds his own colours, and so there is a purity and peculiar charm about his illustrations. We extract a few specimens. Speaking of our faith, he says:—

"Its ideal perfection would be that it should be unbroken, undashed by any speck of doubt; but the reality is far different. It is no full-orbed completeness, but, at the best, a growing segment of reflected light, with many a rough place in its jagged outline, prophetic of increase; with many a deep pit of blackness on its silver surface; with many a storm-cloud sweeping across its face; conscious of eclipse and subject to change. And yet it is the light which He has set to rule the night of life, and we may rejoice in its crescent beam."

And again, p. 308:—

"Christ would have us testify to Him before men, and that for our own sakes, since faith unacknowledged, like a plant in the dark, is apt to become pale and sickly, and bears no bright blossom nor sweet fruit."

Page 271 we enter a Manchester cotton mill:—

"Do we not always need to be driven back—back from these outward things—to God, who alone can give power? You may perfect your machinery; but all its nicely-fitting parts stand motionless—a dead weight; and not a spindle whirrs till the strong impulse, born of fire, rushes in."

Page 290 takes us out again into the streets:—

"Will a man sow seed down our streets, and expect to get a crop there? The hearts of some of you are hard as the streets of some great city—they are beaten down by the perpetual traffic of passengers from morning till night; and almost before the last solitary wanderer has slunk from them in the darkness, the first heavy cart is out again with more supplies for the day's business, and more distractions for the souls of men."

The very street nuisances are utilised—p. 52.

"And many of us simply keep on doing the narrow round of things that we fancy we can do well, or have always been in the habit of doing, like barrel-organs, grinding our poor little set of tunes without any notion of the great sea of music that stretches all around us, and which is not pegged out upon our cylinders at all."

The breadth of view which characterises the whole volume may be illustrated by p. 297:—

"The power and vitality of faith is not measured by the comprehensiveness and clearness of belief. The richest soil may bear shrunken and barren ears, and on the arid sand, with the thinnest layer of earth, gorgeous cacti may bloom out, and fleshy aloes lift their sworded arms, with stores of moisture to help them in the heat. It is not for us to say what amount of ignorance is destructive of the possibility of real confidence in Jesus Christ. But for ourselves, feeling how short a distance our eyesight travels, and how little, after all our systems, the great bulk of men in Christendom know lucidly and certainly of theological truth, and how wide are the differences of opinion amongst us, and how soon we come to towering barriers beyond which our poor faculties can neither pass nor look, it ought to be a joy to us all that a faith which is clouded by such ignorance may be yet a faith which Christ accepts."

We close our extracts with a fresh sketch of a familiar figure—

"The woman is a poor shivering creature, broken down by long illness, made more timid still by many disappointed hopes of cure, depressed by poverty which her many doctors had brought her to. She does not venture to stop this new Rabbi-physician as He goes with the rich church dignitary to heal his daughter, but lets Him pass before she can make up her mind to go near Him at all, and then comes creeping up in the crowd behind, puts out her wasted, trembling hand to His garment's hem—and she is whole."

Once and again, without any affectation, a misread passage of Scripture is silently restored to its true meaning. We have already trespassed beyond the space allotted to us, and cannot quote the instances we have marked.

Mr. MacLaren is as wise as he is earnest, and is never under any necessity of going out of the way in search of novelties. He sees what most of us overlook. The revelation of God in His word and His works, as interpreted by this preacher, seems to be all that we need. There is bread enough, and to spare.

It is very well for artists to make studies in colour, or light and shade, and they can show them to the profession, but they are out of place in our public exhibitions. The laity look for pictures. We must have sermons in our pulpits. Preachers can indulge their speculations in private, or if they publish them, they should come before the public in printed essays or treatises. We want to listen to preachers who speak, and who speak because they believe.

They had better hold their peace, if they cannot declare "what they have seen with their own eyes, and handled with their own hands, of the word of life."

DR. BUSHNELL'S NEW BOOK.

There are few persons who think deeply to whom the forms of evil they find in the world have not often occasioned perplexity. Familiarity with them has doubtless weakened their impression, and there are multitudes who accept them as mere matters of course, but whenever the mind is led to dwell upon them they suggest questions which the ingenuity of man has sought in vain to answer. There are so many "crooked things which cannot be made straight," "so many things wanting which cannot be numbered," so many phenomena that it is hard to reconcile with faith in the benevolence of the Supreme Ruler, that the intellect soon loses itself in the mazes of speculation in which it is involved, and the heart can take refuge only in its trust in the Father's love, and in the assurance that though it cannot now know all which that Father does, it will know hereafter. We may, therefore, gladly welcome light from whatever quarter it comes, even though it be little more than the gleam which assures us that there is light somewhere, and thus encourage us to trust and wait on for more perfect revelations. Dr. Bushnell's new volume will certainly serve this purpose, and serve it all the better because it does not attempt the impossible and profess to solve questions which long experience has proved to be insoluble. It is not an elaborate treatise discussing the origin of evil and other cognate and equally difficult subjects. It is not, indeed, a treatise, but a collection of essays, having only this relation to each other, that they treat of what may be regarded as the mysteries of human life, the "want and waste" to be found in creation, the toleration of "bad government," the existence of "things unsightly and disgusting," the wastings of "plague and pestilence," and all the horrors attendant on "insanity," the absence of intercourse between different worlds, the sense of physical pain, and the anxiety produced by physical danger. The author does not profess to exhaust the list of the evils from which humanity suffers, and in relation to those of which he treats, he does not attempt to discover their causes, but simply to point out some benefits which may accrue even from the worst of them. The argument from design is, in his judgment, imperfect as "assuming that physical 'uses are the decisive tests or objects, of all the contrivances to be looked for in God's works.' Whereas they are resolvable, in far the greater part, by no such tests, but only by their moral 'uses, which are, in fact, the last ends of God 'in every thing.' This is the thought which Dr. Bushnell works out in these several essays, and in doing so he has shown even more than his usual originality and vigour. A book richer in thought, or more indicative of the power of the author, or more stimulating to the mind of the reader, we do not often meet. The force of the style is in harmony with the massive strength of the thought, and though it would probably be made more attractive by a little more elegance and polish, it is so well fitted to be the medium for the expression of the writer's powerful and independent thinking, that we do not consider this a serious defect. We hardly expect that the book will find a very large circle of readers, though the very ingenuity of some of the speculations may interest many who would fail properly to appreciate its higher qualities; while those who really enter into it will value it as one of those rare books which compel them to think for themselves. Like all such books, it will certainly not command universal assent; perhaps hardly secure the unhesitating and perfect sympathy even of a single mind in all its conclusions. They are, indeed, too new, too far removed from ordinary views, too thoroughly the writer's own to be readily adopted. Nor, indeed, is it essential to the end Dr. Bushnell has in view, that they should be thus accepted. Sufficient that they show that there may be a wise end even in things which at first sight appear useless, if not pernicious; that though "God holdeth back the face of His throne, and 'spreadeth His cloud upon it,' yet there are rays which break through the dark which serve to assure the trusting heart that He dwelleth in light, and that with Him there can be no darkness at all.

To enter into a minute examination of the volume would be impossible. Each essay would really deserve a careful and even lengthened discussion for itself, and all that we can attempt is a brief account of one or two. In the fore-

* *Moral Uses of Dark Things.* By HORACE BUSHNELL, D.D. London: Strahan.

front of these "dark things" stand two ("Night and Sleep") which we should scarcely have expected to find among them at all. The author says that the subject is not "generally felt to be at all dark or difficult, and only just over the line when it is more closely and thoughtfully considered." It is because we are here under discipline, sent for action rather than rest, that the arrangement by which so large a portion of our existence is passed in a state of unconsciousness, in which we are neither being tried nor trained, appears so mysterious. Then darkness itself is a name of terror; it is associated in the imagination from childhood upwards with danger and fear; it is the season of crime, and, as the author points out, in a passage of great truthfulness and force, of "the untimely" shows and bewildering dissipations of society, the tendency to which is to make life at once trivial and artificial. Having thus pointed that there are apparent evils connected with the provision, Dr. Bushnell goes on to show, with great skill and beauty, how far they are outweighed by the great moral benefits which accrue from this pause in the active business of life. That it is abused to evil is only the abuse to which all good things are exposed in a world where evil is prevalent. "What best thing is there which wrong may not abuse?" But if thus capable of being turned to bad purpose, it has another side, for the very exhaustion which even those most intent on evil feel has itself a beneficial effect. "If, being loose in evil, we could rush interminably on, never to be spent or recruited by sleep, our bad momentum would itself drive us on, till we are hurried by the goal of life itself." The interposition of the times of necessary rest acts as a restraining influence, and in so far weakens the force of evil. "Having only this short run of power, we are humbled to a softer key." It is of advantage too, that our life is broken up into sections, not left to run on and on like a book without chapters, without headings, without even paragraphs. The recurrence of night makes the division, and thus affords opportunity for reflection, while at the same time "night and sleep" alike enlarge our sphere of knowledge. The essay affords a fair example of the many sides on which Dr. Bushnell looks at his subject, and the unexpected lights in which he often presents it. Some of his modes of expression and illustration startle us, as for example, when he speaks of night and sleep as "fomentations rather directly applied, producing, in that manner, modulations of feelings and mitigations of temper, such as quite undemonise our bad affinities." But the originality of his thought, if it does not quite reconcile to the occasional extravagance of style, certainly makes us regard it with comparative indifference.

One of the most striking essays is that treating "of oblivion, or dead history." Starting with the indisputable fact that there are "large tracts of past events always passing into oblivion," and admitting that this "disappoints our filial instinct which unites us to the past," our author proceeds to inquire what moral benefits result from this. The loss, indeed, is not so great as it appears, for we do not part with all the benefit to be derived from the past, by losing the remembrance of individual events or persons, and that so much should be doomed to oblivion is not marvellous when we remember that the "major part of our human history is bad in the matter of it." By the dying out of any of the bad, we create a better past, and have the "advantages of a tolerably good world behind us—just such a world as we certainly could not have, but for that ordinance of supreme oblivion that makes room for it." Even in relation to some illustrious characters it is all the better that our knowledge of them is not more intimate. The ideal would not be so lofty, if the knowledge of the actual were more extensive, and here referring to the great biography he says, "If we cannot imagine oblivion to be inspired, we can perceive it to be one of the grandest of all evidences of inspiration in the writers, that they could not stoop to over-write and muddle the story, by letting their foolish admiration pack it full of detail." Still further, the oblivion which has overtaken so much of the world's past may serve to abate the Conservative forces of society, to mitigate the violence of bigotry, and to humble the pride and self-confidence of man. The closing passage on this last point affords so good an example of the author's thought and style that we extract it in full:—

"And when we let our thought run over so many mere bird-tracks of oblivion etched on the map of history, what a picture do we see, and what sad tokens of remembrance, nearly expired, do we there recall! The great North African Church, stretching along the whole south coast of the Mediterranean—where is it, by what single vestige is it discovered? And where is the world-famous Church of Alexandria? where the great Syrian, centred at Antioch? and the Church of

Asia Minor, centred at Ephesus? If we call over the roll of the great cities, Thebes stands mute in stone, speaking no more. Great Carthage is almost as difficult to find as the body of Hannibal. Tyre has forgotten her merchants of old. Palmyra was discovered in the eighteenth century; Babylon and Nineveh have just been dug up. The cities of the Aztecs are overgrown rock-formation, where forests luxuriate as naturally as they do on the world's geological strata. If we speak of temples and monuments, the stones of the Incas remain, but the Titans that piled them are gone. The pyramid-temple of Cholula remains, but nobody can tell how it was used. The great mountain heaps of Egypt lift their tops as high as ever, but the stern old victor, Oblivion, has pressed in between the monuments and the monarchs they were to commemorate, thrusting these away out of remembrance, and leaving those to be mere piles of stones. And so it is of the empires; all the great empires of the East and South, and also of our own, falsely called new, West. Some of them we can locate, some of them we can trace by their marks, but cannot even guess their names.

"What pride was there now in all these cities, temples, monuments, and empires, and what figure were they to make in the immortal ages of the future! But how humble, and cheap, and almost foolish they look! And this same power of oblivion has us all in hand in the same manner, to do with us just as it will, and what traces of our name and fame are to be left, I do not know. What we built, whether we marched, where we fought, and whom we conquered, and the great leaders we honoured with triumph—we really do not like to think that Oblivion will carry all these away; perhaps it will not for a very long time, but there is a very long time coming, which may be so long that nobody will name any more those proud things, or even know what people lived here. Or we may imagine without being very absurd, that Philadelphia will some time be dug over to find the marbles of Washington. It may take a million of years to bring such things to pass, but our great teacher, Oblivion, is long-breathed, and will not have his lesson soon ended. And how very weak and small does our high public figure appear in the presence of such examples from the past! We sink back into ourselves, instructed and humbled. It is not so proud a thing to figure out our little day here as we sometimes try to imagine. The contact now of any great principle which is everlasting, or of God, who is the soul's Eternal Rock and Friend—how grand a thing it is, compared with any such pompos and puffy airs in the trivialities of empire and victory! 'So foolish was I and ignorant, I was as a beast before thee. Nevertheless, I am continually with thee!'"

Art.

BIBLE LANDS.*

Any landscape, or architecture, or costume, so long as it possessed the elements of the picturesque, or answered the purpose of the painter, was admitted by the old masters in their representations of Scripture history. Geographical truth and the manners and customs of the East appear to have received but little, if any, consideration. The spirit of a Bible scene is thus utterly lost, and but for a catalogue, or a label attached to the frame of a picture, one would be unable to identify its subject.

Our National Gallery contains many such specimens. For instance, there is a Claude which would be taken for "*Une fête champêtre*," were it not for the inscription on the canvas itself, "*Mariage d'Isaac avec Rebecca*." It is a delightful scene, peopled with holiday nymphs and swains, who are assembled on a verdant and flowery spot of level ground, where, having deposited the vases and canisters containing their viands, they are gaily tripping it to the sound of tabor, pipe, and cymbal. Some children and groups of rural lovers are present; a shepherd leans on his pastoral crook; and a village maiden, who has been sent for water, stops with her pitcher and forgets its weight as she listens to the music and enjoys the hilarity of the evening. Fishers are busy in the middle distance; and near the playground a rustic boy drives the cattle to water, and a returning hunting party, or an equestrian party of pleasure, are just entering the landscape on the left hand.

We are beginning, now-a-days, to recognise the claims of truth, and once and again we meet with a painter, a preacher, or a commentator who has taken the trouble to make a study of the actual circumstances of the scene or the people he is describing. As a rule, however, our modern artists, whether they work in words or colours, chiefly study effect, and our pictorial Bibles are still full of engravings, which serve rather to embellish the letterpress than to explain the text.

It is now generally admitted that there is a real and essential connection between history and geography. The situation, form, and climate of a country influence the character of its inhabitants, and affect their poetry, philosophy, and worship. A knowledge of localities is often the explanation of some events, and always the condition of an accurate and vivid

conception of any occurrence. We are also finding it is necessary that the truth of a history should be confirmed by the unchanging scenes of nature.

The photographic views of the Palestine Exploration Fund, now on view at the Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, will supply a felt want. They are now 349 in number, many of them being of places never before taken. They include, among others, views of the ruins of Capernaum, Chorazin, Gerosa, Kedesh, and Samaria, many spots round Jerusalem, Hebron, and Damascus, and the districts of Shechem and Gennesareth. They are sold at a moderate price, and it is expected that a steady profit may accrue to the society from their sale.

We may be glad, in this instance, that photographs are not pictures, for we may here see for ourselves places and objects as they really are. Views 83, 107, 118, give us specimens of the oak tree, "*baluth*," of Palestine. From the "Tree at Tibneh" we can form a fair estimate of its size; and the "Oak Grove at Hazur" is one of those groves which always accompanied the "high places" of Baal and Astarte, and sometimes the altars erected to the true God, as in the case of Abraham's Grove at Beersheba (Genesis xxi. 33). View 276, "Dead Sea," represents the celebrated apple-tree of Sodom. This tree is ten feet to fifteen feet high, and has a fruit, hanging in clusters, resembling an apple, which, when struck, explodes.

The peculiar construction of the synagogues, and the inscriptions found in them, are shown in many of the views. They were not, as some have imagined, rude and barn-like structures, but magnificent buildings. They are always rectangular in form, having the longest dimension in a nearly north and south direction, and the interiors are divided into aisles by rows of columns. The masonry of the walls is well built and solid, of native limestone; the stones are set without mortar, the body and joints being chiselled in from two to five inches. Aaron's rod, the pot of manna, the paschal lamb, and the seven-branched candlestick, have been traced among the decorations. 53, "Tel Hum," is in all probability the site of Capernaum, and the synagogue, possibly that built by the Roman centurion, which witnessed so many of our Lord's miracles. On the right is the wall uncovered by the excavations, and on the left a curious slab, which seems to represent the front of the synagogue.

75-76. Two panoramas of "Nazareth" enable us to understand the situation of the city amongst the hills of Galilee, "which seem as if they had met to form an enclosure for this peaceful basin; they rise round it like the edge of a shell to guard it from intrusion." 131-132. "Jacob's Well" is a point from which other panoramic views are taken. On the left is Mount Gerizim, and the enclosures in front of it are the walls which surround the well where our Lord met the woman of Samaria. A little to the right is Joseph's tomb, and beyond this the side of Mount Ebal. In the foreground is the plain, which is still in early summer "white ready to harvest."

In 58, "The Plain of Gennesareth with the Lake of Tiberias," we have one of the holiest places of the Holy Land. The coastline is broken into charming bays fringed with oleanders, and beaches composed of shells of a pearly whiteness. It would seem that the old masters in their fictitious backgrounds sometimes approached the confines of truth. Dean Stanley, writing about the Magdala watch-tower which once guarded the entrance of this plain, says, "A large solitary thorn-tree stands beside it. Its situation, otherwise unmarked, is dignified by the high limestone rock which overhangs it on the south-west, perforated with caves, recalling, by a curious, though doubtless unintentional coincidence, the scene of Correggio's celebrated picture."

The chief strength of the Palestine Exploration Fund has been directed to archaeological investigation, and especially the examination of the ruins and debris of Jerusalem. Lieutenant Warren has revealed a condition of things never even suspected before. It was known that the modern city stood upon masses of rubbish, but no one knew their extent, or the secrets which they hid. Ruins of old buildings are found at the depth of ninety feet; subterranean passages running through the city, and the old walls of the Temple Area still standing, eighty feet beneath the surface, in as sound a condition as when they were first built. The bearing of these discoveries on controverted questions, and on different passages of Scripture, will be found to be of the greatest importance.

This scientific exploration of a country in which the documents of our faith were written, and the momentous events they describe enacted, is one of the greatest movements of the day, and demands the assistance of all who can

* The Photographs of the Palestine Exploration Fund: a Society for the Accurate and Systematic Investigation of the Archaeology, Topography, Geology and Physical Geography, Natural History, Manners and Customs of the Holy Land, for Biblical Illustration. Office, 9, Pall Mall East.

possibly help. The geology of the Holy Land is but little known, and its botany and fauna must not be left in the hands of casual travellers. The committee of this organised expedition must not be limited in their operations by any want of funds, but must be encouraged not only to continue their labours in Palestine, but to extend them to other Bible lands.

THE FRENCH ATLANTIC CABLE.

The work of laying the French Atlantic Cable is completed, and a telegram has been received from Duxbury, in Massachusetts, stating that preparations are being made there to celebrate the event.

Sir W. Thomson telegraphs from Minon, near Brest, on Sunday:—"We have conversed freely with the company's engineers at Duxbury through 3,330 miles of submerged cable. During five hours to-day we have made experiments, in the course of which minute directions given from one end have been instantaneously executed at the other."

The *Official Journal* of France, in announcing the completion of the cable, says the new route of communication will henceforth render the relations of France and the United States both more frequent and more intimate. It will also help to draw still closer the bonds of friendship which now unite the two countries.

Subjoined is an extract of a private letter dated on board the steamship Great Eastern, off the banks of Newfoundland, the 12th inst.:-

The end of the cable is hanging to a buoy somewhere near here. We have successfully laid our section. There have been four faults found and cut out. All but one were quietly hauled in astern. One occurred when it was blowing a gale of wind. As the sea heaved the ship about, of course a greater strain was put on the cable. Three seas struck her in succession, each one breaking over the stern, deluging the decks with water, carrying several men off their feet into the scuppers. Some of the staging and bulwarks astern were smashed, and the cable parted. The end fortunately fouled in the paying-out-drum, and thus they had time to put on the "stoppers," which are ropes held round the cable and always ready to be pulled tight in case of need. It was useless trying to haul in again, so we made the buoy rope fast and let go. Then to mark the spot we let another buoy go, anchored to a "mushroom" with 2,030 fathoms of rope. The Scanderia did the same. All day and night, and the next day, we dodged about these buoys. When the sea went down we got the buoys in, hauled the cable up, cut out the fault, joined up, and went ahead again. The sea was most magnificent, and our ship behaved splendidly. The other two were deluged fore and aft, and tossed about like corks; while we simply rolled in a slow, deliberate, magnificent manner, though we sometimes made a tremendous angle and pitched a little. Yesterday was a miserable Sunday—thick fog which soaks everything and drips from every rope and spar. No service, and every one anxious and uncomfortable generally. While we were at dinner, it was calculated that we ought to have reached the spot where we should meet the Cory; so guns were fired. Suddenly the fog lifted, and there she was right ahead. She and a surveying boat had come out to pilot us between the banks. The fog was so thick that you would scarcely have found your way on land, and here we had come across the Atlantic and found exactly the right place.

It has been notified that a fault was discovered on Saturday in one of the Atlantic cables, that of 1866, 130 miles from the Irish coast. Communication through this cable still continues, but steps are being taken to repair the fault as soon as possible. The cable of 1865 is in perfect condition.

A certain smatterer in letters, being at a well-known literary club, took it into his head to abuse, with great freedom, all the modern *literati*, observing that there was but very little wit, humour, or learning in the present age. Some time afterwards one of our most popular writers came into the room, when a gentleman told him how his friend had been abusing "the moderns." "I have not the least doubt of his ill-nature," said the author, "he would abuse the ancients too if he knew their names."

AN UNKNOWN DEATH.—The following is the comment of a coloured preacher on the text, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." "I've known many a church die 'cause it didn't give enough; but I never knowed a church to die 'cause it gave too much. Dey didn't die dat way. Brethern, hes any of you knowed a church to die 'cause it gave too much? If you do just let me know; and I'll make a pilgrimage to dat church an' I'll climb by de soft light of de moon to its moss-covered roof, and I'll stand dar and lift my hands to heaven, and say, 'Blessed are de dead dat die in de Lord.'"

ABERNETHY AND LISTON.—With all his power of creating mirth and provoking laughter in others, Liston, was, when at home, the dullest man imaginable, and a prey to low spirits which frequently threatened his reason. By the advice of his wife, he went to the celebrated Abernethy, so well known for the *brusquerie* of his manner. Liston was ushered into the surgeon's room, and was received with a slight bow by the old cur, who was unacquainted with the name or person of his visitor. "Sit down, sir. What ails you?" said the doctor. Liston stated his complaint with gravity and deliberation. "Is that all?" inquired Abernethy. "There's nothing the matter with you. Low spirits! Pooh! pooh! Go to Covent-garden to-night and see Liston perform; if that has no effect, go again to-morrow; that will do it. Two doses of Liston will restore a melancholy madman. There—go—go." Liston was taken aback, tipped his guinea, and made a most theatrical exit.

Miscellaneous.

HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE HEART, NEW-MAN-STREET, OXFORD-STREET.—The number of patients relieved during the week was 110.

ANOTHER ATLANTIC CABLE.—It is said that a company for the laying of a new Atlantic cable is projected. It is proposed to run the line from Milford Haven direct to the American coast, without touching any intervening island. The cable is to be light in structure, and to be manufactured, it is said, at very much less than the cost of the existing cables. As a result of this economy, the promoters express a belief that they will be able to send messages at the rate of a shilling a word, thus making a message of twenty words cost 11.

FEMALE MEDICAL STUDENTS.—The Edinburgh University Court has given its sanction to the matriculation of ladies as medical students, but with this condition, that separate classes shall be formed for their instruction. The assent of the General Council and of the Chancellor is necessary to give this concession the force of University law, but the *Scotsman* appears to consider the matter as virtually settled.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS.—At the annual meeting on Saturday of the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association, it was stated that the committee have now 123 fountains and 125 troughs under their care, and the amount required for the efficient maintenance and supply of these is not less than 1,200*l.* a year. The donations of the year included 100*l.* from the Queen, and one (the largest of all) of 500*l.* from a person who is known only as "A water baby." The water companies which supply the fountains gratuitously are the Grand Junction, the Southwark and Vauxhall, and the Kent. The other companies cannot or will not afford to do so.

LIBERATOR BUILDING SOCIETY.—From the report of the Liberator Building Society just issued, it appears that, after discharging the whole of the society's preliminary expenses, and paying 5 per cent. interest on shares and deposits, there remains a balance of 303*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, out of which the directors have voted a bonus of 1 per cent. on paid-up shares, and placed 150*l.* to the credit of a reserve fund, leaving a balance to be carried forward of 139*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* The directors state that they have endeavoured, and they believe with success, to establish the society upon a sound commercial basis, and to conduct its affairs with prudence.

THE CARINGTON-MURRAY AFFAIR.—Lord Carington was tried on Friday for the assault on Mr. Grenville-Murray. The jury returned a verdict of "Guilty of common assault, committed under circumstances of great provocation," and the Court ordered the defendant to enter into recognisances for 100*l.* to keep the peace for the next twelve months, and, if he did not repeat the offence, he would hear no more of it. The case of Mr. Murray, who is charged with perjury, was tried on the same day before Mr. Knox, and has been postponed. The drift of the evidence and cross-examination was not favourable to the accused. At the meeting of the Conservative Club on Thursday, it was resolved, by 190 votes to 10, that Mr. Grenville-Murray should cease to be a member of the institution.

DREADFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—Another terrible explosion of gas occurred in the Haydock Colliery on Wednesday morning, causing fifty-eight deaths and seriously injuring many others, besides doing great damage to the mine. The explosion occurred in the remoter workings, so that no sound was heard at the surface. The workings had all been carefully inspected that morning, and believed to be perfectly safe. The mine is not particularly "fiery," and the exact cause of the accident is yet unknown. It is believed that the explosion was greatly intensified by the ignition of a large quantity of powder. A considerable proportion of the killed were destroyed by the "after damp." The greatest consternation and alarm prevail throughout the whole district.

THE PEABODY MEMORIAL.—The Peabody statue, in London, was unveiled on Friday by the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness, before proceeding to the ceremonial, said that amongst all his public duties none had ever given him greater pleasure than to assist in uncovering the statue of a man who was the greatest benefactor and merchant prince of his age. England, and London especially, were most deeply indebted to him. He (the Prince) could never forget the reception he had received whilst in America, and trusted that England and America might continue to go hand in hand towards prosperity. The Prince then unveiled the statue, amid the cheers of thousands assembled. Mr. Motley, the American Minister, then made a felicitous speech. To calls for Mr. Story, that gentleman made a very effective reply. He pointed to his work, and added, "That is my speech." The statue, no doubt, is a faithful likeness of Mr. Peabody. It has cost 3,000*l.*, which has been raised by limited contributions from all classes.

THE PRIME MINISTER OF ENGLAND SICK VISITING.—The London correspondent of the *Irish Times* supplies the following:—"A little incident which occurred last week in London throws fresh light upon the genuine interest which Mr. Gladstone takes in works of charity and mercy. My informant is a gentleman who is intimately acquainted with the Premier, and who could not possibly be mistaken. He was walking through a street in the neighbourhood of Holborn, and saw Mr. Gladstone talking to an old Irishwoman at the door of her house. At first he was considerably astonished, because he knew that the house was let out to poor Irish labourers, and he was at a loss to understand what new argument the Premier could obtain from

such a source. In a moment or two Mr. Gladstone left the woman, and walked away. My friend then crossed the street, and asked the woman who the gentleman was to whom she had been speaking. She replied, 'Shure, I don't know; but the gentleman's been visiting a poor Irish labourer who lies sick in the back room.' Everybody knows that Mrs. Gladstone takes a most active interest in a charity for the relief of the destitute, and in all probability the Premier had undertaken a little sick visiting on her behalf."

WARNED IN A DREAM.—A few days ago a serious accident occurred in Bulmer village to a picnic party going to Castle Howard. The party made the journey in an omnibus, and it seems that the wife of one of the men hesitated to join the party, and tried to persuade her husband not to go, because she had dreamt a week before that they were in an omnibus and were upset on going through a village and greatly injured, fright awakening her. The man and his wife, however, did go, but on reaching Bulmer the woman became greatly excited. Not only, she remarked, was the omnibus that which she had seen in her dream, but the village was that in which the accident she dreamt of happened. The words were scarcely uttered when the omnibus was upset, and a scene of great confusion resulted. Those on the outside were thrown to the ground with great violence; one man was rendered insensible by the omnibus falling upon him, and several sustained rather serious injuries. The woman to whom the accident was revealed beforehand was herself badly hurt, but her husband's was the worst case, he sustaining a dislocation of an ankle. Medical aid was quickly procured, the sufferers were relieved, and afterwards conveyed to their homes. Every incident of the accident seems to have been pictured in the premonitory dream.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES IN THE PROVINCES.—On Wednesday the Prince and Princess of Wales brought their visit to Lancashire to a close. In the Peel Park, at Salford, and in the Town-hall, at Manchester, addresses were presented to them, to which His Royal Highness made suitable replies. At one o'clock the Prince presided at the annual meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society; and at the close of this meeting the time had arrived for the departure of the royal party for Hull. The Prince and Princess were, however, "mobbed," as it were, by the dense crowd which gathered around them to testify their loyalty; and the Mayor of Manchester threatened the people with the cavalry. His threat was, as a matter of course, received with hootings; and when the police arrived they could not clear a passage. The 1st Dragoons then appeared and opened the way; and the Prince and Princess left for Hull at 2.30 p.m. They were at night the guests of Mr. Sykes, M.P., at Brantinghamthorpe, about eight miles from that town. On Thursday their Royal Highnesses met with a very hearty reception in Hull. Addresses were presented to them by the Town Council and the Dock Company; and in replying to the former the Prince expressed the pleasure which it had afforded the Princess to visit a port which through its trade was so well known to the people of Denmark. The new dock was christened the "Albert Dock." A luncheon was afterwards given by the Dock Company, and the day's festivities were brought to a conclusion by a ball at the official residence of the Mayor.

NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE.—The first meeting of the London members of this society was held on Monday afternoon at the Westminster Palace Hotel. The scheme of the League is:—"That local authorities shall be compelled by law to see that sufficient school accommodation is provided for every child in their district; that the cost of founding and maintaining such schools as may be required, shall be provided out of local rates, supplemented by Government grants; that all schools aided by local rates should be under the management of local authorities and subject to Government inspection; that all schools aided by local rates shall be unsectarian; that to all schools aided by local rates admission shall be free; that, school accommodation being provided, the State or local authorities shall have power to compel the attendance of children of suitable age, not otherwise receiving education." Amongst those gentlemen present at the meeting were Mr. G. Dixon, M.P. (chairman of the Provisional Committee of Birmingham, in the chair), Sir H. Hoare, M.P., E. Potter, Esq., M.P., Peter Taylor, Esq., M.P., Donald Dalrymple, Esq., M.P., Walter Morrison, Esq., M.P., James Howard, Esq., M.P., H. Campbell, Esq., M.P., B. Samuelson, Esq., M.P., and Sergeant Simon, M.P. Letters expressing regret at being unable to attend were read from the Hon. George Brodrick, M.P., Sir John Lubbock, Professor Huxley, Sir C. Wentworth Dilke, and the Hon. Auberon Herbert. A provisional committee for the metropolitan area was formed for the purpose of co-operating with the Provisional Committee of Birmingham, and of making preparations for the first general meeting of the members of the League, to be held at Birmingham in the course of the ensuing autumn. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

VACCINATION.—Dr. Lankester held an inquest on Monday at Highgate New Town on the body of a child named Emery, which, it was supposed, had died from the results of vaccination. Erysipelas was the immediate cause of death, but that the erysipelas was produced by the vaccination was clearly stated by medical witnesses, and the jury found accordingly. Dr. George Allen, of 11, Schoo square, who vaccinated the child, said he had been

A vaccination, since he was fifteen years old, and had performed as many as 100 operations in a day, and he had never seen a fatal case before. He believed the erysipelas was produced after vaccination through some disease of the child. The mother of a healthy-looking child also was summoned on Monday at the Thames Police-court for having refused to allow the infant to be vaccinated. The defendant declared that under no circumstances would she permit the operation to be performed, for she held that in her own experience vaccination had been productive of more evil than good. She was, however, ordered to comply with the provisions of the Act of Parliament. On this subject the *Pall Mall Gazette* remarks:—"The careless way in which vaccination is too often conducted, especially upon the children of the poor, must necessarily render it useless as a prophylactic, but worse than all, it does actually impart disease from an unhealthy child to an healthy one. Such cases as these are frequent; the sufferers talk about them, and the story with the moral attached spreads far and wide. If all parochial medical officers, or 'cheap' doctors, took the trouble to use pure vaccine, and to ascertain well the state of health of children before vaccinating from one to another, there would be less actual basis for the increasing unpopularity of Jenner's system than now exists. People who employ first-rate doctors are safe. Their medical friends keep carefully sealed bottles of the vaccine, probably obtained from Switzerland, and he takes good care not to borrow from an unhealthy child. It is not altogether owing to ignorance or stupidity that poor people now try to save their children from what they regard as a hazardous experiment."

DYING CROPS IN WET WEATHER.—One more of the picturesque elements of country life is doomed. Haymaking is about to go the way of the flail, the thatched cottage-roof, and the hedge-row elm. The long-devised apparatus for artificially drying grass and corn appears to be now at last within the reach of the enlightened agriculturist. According to Mr. Mechi, who has appended the process in a letter to the *Times*, and who has himself witnessed it in operation for two seasons, the new invention leaves nothing to be desired. The grass is carried from the field as fast as it is mown, and subjected to a blast of hot air by the action of a large fan, worked either by steam or horse power. The hot air is generated by a coke furnace, and is simply drawn outwards by the revolving fan, instead of being allowed to pass up the chimney. In about ten minutes the moist grass is converted into hay of the very best quality, as Mr. Mechi and sundry other farmers testify. The value of the invention—always supposing there are no serious hitch in carrying it out—can scarcely be exaggerated. It is not merely that the cost of hay-making will be materially lessened, even in fine weather. The invention makes the farmer absolutely independent of the weather, and, taking one year with another, will thus save the country an enormous loss in inferior, damaged, and destroyed hay. Its use in securing second crops will be even more important than from the ordinary first crop. Farmers naturally take little pains to produce this second crop, in the extreme uncertainty of the late summer or autumnal weather, when the nights are damp and long, and the drying process in the fields is especially hazardous. But here, once more, we are brought face to face with the great manure question. Pasture lands may now be safely flooded with a torrent of sewage again and again, to force fresh crops of grass for conversion into hay, two, or even three times a year. How urgent, too, is the need for every device for multiplying our grass crops may be gathered at this moment from the condition of the markets. With an immense crop of grass all over the country, made into splendid hay, the best new hay is now selling in London at about 6s. per ton, and the country prices are not much lower. *Pall Mall Gazette*.

Gleanings.

Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P., is writing a history of Alfred the Great. Messrs. Bradbury and Evans formally deny the report that Punch has been sold. They are still the proprietors of the facetious periodical. The next annual congress of the Social Science Association is appointed to take place at Bristol, from the 29th of September to the 6th of October next. A debating club lately discussed the important question, "Whether a cock's knowledge of daybreak is the result of observation or instinct?" A gentleman has left London for Edinburgh on a velocipede. He calculates that he will arrive at his destination in six days. *Le Petit Moniteur* states that a new velocipede is being patented in Paris, which is to throw all others into the shade. It has five wheels, and the motive power is communicated to it by the mere weight of the riders. A Western paper announces the illness of its editor, piously adding: "All good paying subscribers are requested to mention him in their prayers. The others need not, as the prayers of the wicked avail nothing, according to good authority." "What would our wives say if they knew where we are?" said the captain of a schooner, when they were beating about in a thick fog, fearful of going ashore. "Humph, I shouldn't mind that," replied the mate, "if we only knew where we were ourselves." Messrs. E. Moxon, Son, and Co., are about to

bring out a magnificent edition of some of Thomas Hood's favourite poems, illustrated by Gustave Doré. The Earl of Denbigh has consented to preside at a dinner to be given early in August, at the Agricultural Hall, or some other large building, by several leading colonists, to about 1,600 working people for the purpose of bringing under the notice of the working classes the merits of Australian preserved meats.

"NIVER A KNOCKER."—"Why, you'd better just knock the door down! What do you want?"—"Och, my darling! don't let me wake any of your family; I'm just using your knocker to wake the people next door. I'm locked out, d'ye see; and they've niver a knocker." Rap! rap! rap!

INTELLIGIBLE.—A Dutchman once met an Irishman on a lonely highway. As they met each smiled, thinking he knew the other. Pat, on seeing his mistake, remarked, with a look of disappointment, "Faith, an' I thought it was you, an' you thought it was me, an' it's naythur of us." The Dutchman replied, "Yaw, dat is dhrú; I am an anndrr man, and you is not yourself; we pe poth some other podies."

KERN AND WITTY.—The following conversation is reported to have occurred in one of the lobbies of the House of Lords last week:—"What is this story about Lord W—?"—"Why, he offered in the debate to lay his head on the block, if necessary, for the good of his country," whereupon Lord — exclaimed, "Don't do that, my lord, for we should never know which was which!"

GETTING OUT OF TRAINS.—The prevalence of the practice of getting out of trains while still in motion has induced a civil engineer at New York to state, for the guidance of the public, that "the true method" is, not to jump, but to step lightly from the carriage, keeping your face in the direction of motion, let go the rail at once, keep the head and body well thrown back, and, if the train is going at speed, step out quickly the moment your feet touch the ground.

A FOOLISH PROPOSAL.—A well-known resident of Newark (N.J.) is about issuing in tract form a most remarkable document. The idea is that a day shall be set apart by Christians of every denomination when prayer shall be offered that at a certain day and hour the Lord will set a sign in the heavens whereby infidels may know that the Bible is the Word of God. The tracts are to find their way all over the country, and will probably excite a considerable degree of public attention. *New York Tribune*.

COUNTING THE CHICKENS, &c.—The problem of aerial navigation is solved. Within a year we shall travel habitually to New York, Europe, and China by aerial carriages. The trial trips of the model steam-carriage at Shell Mound Park, have been entirely and completely successful—exceeding the most sanguine anticipations or hopes of the builders. The power of the propellers was greater, and the resistance of the atmosphere less than were estimated, and the speed attained was proportionately greater. Protected by its patent rights, we believe that the Aerial Steam Navigation Company of California and its grantees will speedily constitute the most gigantic single incorporation interest in the United States—overshadowing the railroad, steamship, or telegraph combinations. The thing is done; fully, finally, and completely done. Within four weeks the first aerial steam-carriage, capable of conveying six persons, and propelled at a rate exceeding the maximum speed of thirty miles an hour, will wing its flight over the Sierra Nevada on its way to New York and other remote parts. *San Francisco News Letter*.

SHOWMAN ELOQUENCE.—The following is the latest piece of showman eloquence:—"Gentlemen, this is the celebrated boa constrictor; the finest, largest, longest, strongest, and prettiest animal of its species on exhibition in this country. He was caught in South Africa (as he lay torpid after swallowing two oxen and a drove of sheep) in a wire net, his capture affording a beautiful illustration of successful wire-pulling. It was supposed that the sand where he was found was hot enough to boil eggs, and that his skin was at least 'well done' there is proved by its highly-finished appearance. His colour is supposed to combine all the hues of all snakes that ever hissed or bit, from the 'old serpent' to a conger eel. His size is variable, as, like most other objects in nature, he expands with heat and contracts with cold. For every rise of five degrees in the thermometer, he gets a foot of longitude. In his native sand he is 180 feet long. The warm season of our own country stretches him twenty-five feet. Last January, when the thermometer fell to sixteen degrees, he shrank into such trifling dimensions as to be invisible through a microscope. His present length you can see for yourselves. His temperance principles are of the Goughist kind. He is a dozen cold-water societies rolled into one. His drink at his present dimensions is three gallons of water per week, his food three more gallons. He has great natural talents for politics, which he shows by changing his coat four times a year. Price of admission, twenty-five cents." *New Orleans Times*.

CONCESSION OF THE FREE-THINKERS.—Professor Huxley, in the paper in which he has declared so uncompromising a determination to know nothing but natural phenomena and their laws, seems to reduce the noblest acts of duty to the precise level of the contractile agitation of the protoplasm in the hairs of the stinging-nettle. "All thought," he says, "is but the expression of molecular changes in the physical matter of life. As surely as every future grows out of past and present, so will the physiology of the future gradually extend the realm of matter and law until it is co-extensive with knowledge, with feeling, and with action." Most of his readers cannot help feeling depressed by such a prospect, and would at any rate take it to be discouraging, to moral appeals and exhortations; but Mr. Huxley, with his

unsparing severity, when he has excited their fears, proceeds to laugh at them as foolish; and he himself seems to consider the identity in nature of action and contractility as positively suggesting with peculiar emphasis a moral conclusion. "Why trouble ourselves," he asks, "with anything beyond natural phenomena? We live in a world which is full of misery and ignorance, and the plain duty of each and all of us is to try to make the little corner he can influence somewhat less miserable and somewhat less ignorant than it was before he entered it." The plain duty of each and all of us! Where in the world, we are inclined to ask, does Mr. Huxley find a place for plain duty amongst his molecular changes? Nevertheless, we see that he does acknowledge a plain duty for all and each; and this plain duty he declares to be to strive against misery and ignorance. Well; any man who does that, in the eye of the Christian, is doing God's will; if he is responsible for doing it, he is really responsible to God. Mr. Huxley is a physiologist, and goes a little aside from his own professional line in making this appeal to our consciences. But when we see the warmth with which such moralists as Mr. Mill, say, or M. Comte, treat moral questions, the enthusiasm with which they desire the improvement of the human race, their indignation against wrong, their reverence for goodness, the profound sense of responsibility they would cultivate in themselves and others, we cannot but say, these men live by faith more than most Christians, and their faith is in—what? In what we, speaking for ourselves, should most certainly name God. *Llewellyn Davies, in the Fortnightly*.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

MIRANS.—April 22, at 122, Brunswick-street, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria, the wife of (Mr. Edward Mirans, of a daughter.

WRIGHT.—July 19, at 6, Churton-street, Fimble, the wife of Alfred Wright, of a son.

WILLMOTT.—July 25, at 7, Harrogate-road, Victoria Park, the wife of Mr. Thomas Willmott, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BOURN—BARNARD.—July 15, at Hare-court Chapel, Canonbury, by the Rev. J. Cox, the Rev. H. H. Bourn, of Ipswich, to Catherine Mary, youngest daughter of the late Charles Vincent Barnard, Esq. No cards.

EVANS—HASLER.—July 15, at the Independent meeting-house, Belgrave-square, Over Darwen, by the Rev. James M'Dougall, Mr. Howard Evans, of Salford, to Miss Hasler, only daughter of the late Mr. John Hasler, Blackburn. No cards.

CHEETHAM—HAWORTH.—July 13, at Orchard-street Chapel, Stockport, by the Rev. J. Prewell, William, second son of Mr. James Cheetham, to Emma Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Bernard Sutcliffe Haworth, C.E., all of Stockport.

CLOUGH—STRICKLAND.—July 21, at the United Methodist Free Church, Farley, by the Rev. R. Lyon, Wm. Clough, of Farley, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph Strickland, of Farley, gentleman.

BOOTH—BOOTH.—July 21, at the Baptist Chapel, Gildersome, by the Rev. J. Haslam, Henry, son of Mr. F. Booth, Wakefield, to Sophia, eldest daughter of Mr. Henry Booth, Gildersome House, Gildersome.

GREENHALGH—POYSEY.—July 21, at Grosvenor-street Wesleyan Chapel, Chorlton-on-Medlock, by the Rev. J. Allen, Joseph, youngest son of the late James Wm. Greenhalgh, of Leigh Grove, Ardlwick, to Martha, eldest daughter of the late Charles Poysey, of Manchester.

PEARSON—BROUGH.—July 21, at Trinity Congregational Church, Waverley, by the Rev. E. Haslam, assisted by the Rev. G. Twentymen, brother-in-law of the bride, John, only son of Mr. J. Pearson, Whitehaven, to Eliza, only daughter of Thos. Brough, Esq., Waverley.

INGHAM—BRANLAND.—July 22, at Eastbrook Chapel, Bradford, by license, by the Rev. D. Griffiths, assisted by the Rev. Wm. Kingland, Oates, second son of John Ingham, Esq., the Mount, Peel Park, to Mary Hannah, eldest daughter of John Branland, Esq., Bradford.

JACK—THOMAS.—July 22, at the Independent Chapel, Coleford, by the Rev. Mr. Stevens, Mr. William M. Jack, of Bristol, to Amy Priscilla, eldest daughter of Mr. James Thomas. No cards.

STACY—COOK.—July 22, at Lower Clapton Congregational Church, by the Rev. A. A. Ramsay, Mr. Jonathan Sargeant Stacy, youngest son of the late Robert S. Stacy, Esq., of Tottenham and Shoreditch, to Olive Hayward, only daughter of John Cook, Esq., of Effra Lodge, Cambridge Heath, E., and granddaughter of the late George Hayward, Esq., of Olive Cottage, Dulwich-road, S.W.

SPENCER—SPENCE.—July 24, at College Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. William Kingland, Mr. George Spencer to Miss Sarah Ann Spence, both of Bradford.

WARD—McKELL.—July 24, at College Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. William Kingland, Mr. Walter Ward to Miss Sarah McKell, both of Bradford.

DEATHS.

BOYD.—July 18, suddenly, at Brook's Croft, Walthamstow, Robert Andrew Boyd, Esq., aged 55.

DEWSNAP.—July 20, the Rev. J. Dewsnap, for ten years minister of the Congregational Chapel, Witham, Essex. Aged 45 years. Deeply lamented.

BURLS.—July 21, at Peckham-rye Common, in the forty-seventh year of her age, Mary Grant, wife of Charles Burls, Esq., and eldest daughter of the late Rev. James Sherman.

JOBLING.—July 22, at Boxbale, aged fifty-seven, the Rev. Thomas Jobling, Primitive Methodist minister, recently General Missionary Secretary, London.

GOWARD.—July 22, at Trafalgar-road, Birmingham, Henry Toller, eldest son of Henry Goward, M.A., aged four years and four months.

GRAY.—July 23, at her residence, No. 1, Stuart Villa, Sydenham-road, Bristol, Elizabeth, widow of the late Rev. William Gray, for many years pastor of the Baptist Church, College-street, Northampton, aged ninety-three years.

TOMKINS.—July 23, at Stapleton-road, Bristol, aged seventy-six, Sarah, relict of John Tomkins, late of Langton Court, Brighthelm.

WHITLEY.—July 26, at Brighton, Harry, second surviving son of Mark Ives and Fanny Whitley, of Cambridge, aged ten years and six months.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS—RHEUMATIC PAINS.—Many thousands of martyrs from rheumatism have found human life but one long disease, and after consulting all the most eminent medical men in vain, and trying all sorts of supposed remedies without relief, have grown weary of existence, and have ceased to hope for comfort on this side of the grave, until some lucky accident has called their attention to Holloway's Pills and Ointment. These are genuine remedies indeed. Persons bedridden for months with rheumatic pains and swellings, after the Ointment has been well rubbed into the parts affected, and the blood purified by a course of the Pills, have found themselves restored in an incredibly short time, to perfect health and ease.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, July 21.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued	£34,175,905
Government Debt	£11,015,100
Other Securities	3,994,900
Gold Coin & Bullion	12,175,805
	£34,175,905

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital £14,553,000	
Reserve	3,378,311
Public Deposits	4,174,911
Other Deposits	19,933,351
Seven Day and other Bills	452,434
	£42,514,807

July 22, 1889.

Geo. Forster, Chief Cashier.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, July 26.

We had a very small supply of English wheat again this morning, but foreign arrivals are liberal. The continued fine weather caused an inactive trade, and English wheat realised with difficulty the prices of Monday last. Foreign wheat was unchanged, but the business doing was small. Flour was rather lower where sales were made. Beans, peas, and barley remained unaltered in value. Maize maintained the advance of last week. The oat trade was firmer, and prices recovered 6d. per qr. of the recent decline. Cargoes on the coast met a steady demand, and are fully as dear.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Home and Kent, red, old	47 to 50	47 to 50
Do do, new	47 to 50	47 to 50
White, old	47 to 50	47 to 50
Do do, new	47 to 50	47 to 50
Foreign red	45 to 48	45 to 48
Do white	49 to 51	49 to 51
BARLEY—		
English malting	31 to 34	31 to 34
Chevalier	40 to 45	40 to 45
Distilling	35 to 37	35 to 37
Foreign	29 to 33	29 to 33
MALT—		
Pale	— to —	— to —
Chevalier	— to —	— to —
Brown	31 to 32	31 to 32
BEANS—		
Black	37 to 39	37 to 39
Haricot	40 to 45	40 to 45
Small	— to —	— to —
Egyptian	37 to 39	37 to 39

BREAD.—LONDON, Saturday, July 24.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 7d. to 8d.; household ditto, 5½d. to 6½d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, July 26.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 10,823 head. At the corresponding period in 1888 we received 10,733; in 1887, 10,833; in 1886, 10,417; and in 1885, 11,100 head. The supply of foreign beasts and sheep was less extensive. The trade was active at about previous quotations. From our own grazing districts the receipt of beasts were rather heavier, and some good serviceable animals were included in the supply. More firmness was noticed in the trade and the best breeds realised fully last Monday's quotations. The best Scots and crosses sold at 5s. 4d. to 5s. 6d. per 14lb., and in some instances 5s. 8d. per 14lb. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire, we received about 1,100 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England, 600 various breeds; from Scotland, 7 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland 50 head. With sheep the market was well supplied. Prime breeds met a fair sale at full currencies, but inferior qualities were difficult to move. The top price was 5s. 6d. to 5s. 8d. per 14lb. Lambs changed hands to a moderate extent at from 5s. 6d. to 5s. 8d. per 14lb. Calves were in moderate request on former terms. For pigs there was a fair inquiry at about the rates current on Monday last.

Per 14lb. to sink the Offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts.	3	to	4		Prime Southdowns	5	to	6	
Second quality	3		4		Lambs	5		6	
Prime large oxen	4		5		Lgs. coarse calves	4		5	
Prime Scots, &c.	4		5		Prime small	5		2	
Coarse inf. sheep	3		0		Large hogs	3		10	
Second quality	4		0		Westm. porkers	4		8	
Pr. coarse woolled	5		2						
Suckling calves, 22s. to 35s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 35s., each.									

SMITHFIELD MEAT MARKET, Monday, July 26.—Moderate supplies of meat have been on sale, owing to the warm weather. The trade has ruled heavy, and prices have had a drooping tendency.

		Per 14lb. by the carcase,			
	a. d.	a. d.		a. d.	a. d.
Inf. beef	3	2 to 3	Inf. mutton	3	3
Middling ditto	3	2	Middling ditto	3	0
Prime large do.	4	10	Prime ditto	5	0
Do. small do.	4	10	Do.	4	8
Large pork.	3	10	Small pork	4	5
Lamb, 5s. 4d. to 5s. 8d.					

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, July 26.—Reports from the plantations indicate a steady continuance of vermin, and increase of honeydew. Some of the grounds, blighted early in the season, show a disposition to clean; but, on the whole, we see no reason for believing that our prospects have materially improved. Our market remains firm, with a quiet consumptive trade, at late values. Continental reports are without change. New York advices to the 15th instant report a very firm market for fine and average grades, accounts from the various hop sections being hardly so satisfactory. Mid and East Kent, 2s. 10s., 2s. 10s., to 6s. 10s.; Weak of Kent, 2s. 5s., 2s. 10s., to 4s.; Sussex, 2s., 2s. 10s., to 3s. 15s.; Farnham, 2s. 10s., 2s. 10s., to 4s.; Country, 2s. 10s., 2s. 10s., to 4s. 10s.; Bavarians, 2s., 2s. 10s., to 3s. 10s.; Belgians, 2s., 2s. 10s., to 3s.; Yearlings, 2s., 2s. 10s., to 3s. 10s.; Americans, 2s. 5s., 2s. 10s., to 3s. 10s. The imports of foreign hops into London last week consisted of 41 bales from Antwerp, 8 bales from Bremen, 25 bales Hamburg, 335 bales from New York, 25 bales from Rotterdam.

PROVISIONS, Monday, July 26.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,376 drkins butter, and 2,746 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 18,252 packages butter, 1,661 bales bacon. There was a fair sale for foreign butter last week, with little alteration in prices; the transactions in Irish still very limited. There was a good demand for bacon last week at an advance of 2s. on Irish and 2s. to 4s. on Hamburg.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, July 26.—Moderate supplies of potatoes have been on sale. On the whole the demand has been active at our quotations. The import into London last week consisted of 306 baskets

from Caen, 912 baskets 127 bags 62 barrels from Dunkirk, 64 baskets 27 packages Calais, 48 tons Cherbourg, 32 packages Gibraltar, and 12 bags from Rotterdam. English Shaws, 105s. to 120s. per ton; English Regents, 115s. to 130s.; French, 90s. to 110s.

SEED, Monday, July 26.—Little English cloverseed was offered, and prices were somewhat high. Red foreign cloverseed creeps up in value, and fine qualities can be placed steadily. All trefoils are held at advanced rates. New English rapeseed was offered of fair quality, but held too high for buyers. New turnip-seeds are now offering at moderate prices. Canaryseed remains dear, and good samples are scarce.

WOOL, Monday, July 26.—There has been a cheerful tone pervading the wool trade; but the transactions have not been very considerable. Attention will now be directed again to the public sales of Colonial wool, which will probably commence on the 28th proximo. Stocks are heavy; but prices are maintained for all qualities of English.

OIL, Monday, July 26.—Lined oil has been quiet, and rape has been dull and drooping. Olive has been in request, and full rates have been obtained. Palm is firmly held, but coconut is dull.

TALLOW, Monday, July 26.—The market is steady. Y.C. on the spot, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 5d. per cwt. Town Tallow 4s. net cash.

COAL, Monday, July 26.—Factors realised an advance on all best coals, with an upward tendency. Hestons, 18s. 6d.; Hestons Lyons, 15s. 3d.; Haswell 18s. 6d.; Hartlepool (original), 18s. 6d.; ditto South, 18s. 6d.; Hawthorn, 15s.; Kelloe, 15s. 6d.; Tunstall, 15s. 6d.; Hartleys, 14s. 3s. Ships fresh arrived, 20; ships left from last day, 2.

Advertisements.

PROFESSOR PEPPER'S LECTURE on the GREAT LIGHTNING INDUSTRY, as delivered before their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Louise and Beatrice. Daily at a Quarter to Three and Half-past Seven. —"ROBIN HOOD" and "ALADDIN," musically treated by GEORGE BUCKLAND, Esq.—The "ASTROMETROSCOPE"—Woodbury's "Photo-Relief Process"—DORE'S Pictures of "Elaine"—Stokes on Memory.—At the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—One Shilling.

LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 27, Queen-square, Bloomsbury. Beds from 1s. 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

TO GROCERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED, in a First-class Family Trade, a YOUNG MAN of good address, about twenty-three years of age. Also an IMPROVER, a well-educated Youth, age not under eighteen years. Address—Lincoln and Co., 35, Sidney-street, Cambridge.

COUNTRY APARTMENTS, Furnished, TO LET, one sitting-room, two bed-rooms, and a Dressing-room, in a Private Family, situation pleasant, healthy, and near a Railway station. For further particulars apply to Rev. C. Cowper, Abinger, Dorking.

ORGAN, by AVERY, with Three Rows of Keys. Also several Second-hand ORGANS, of various sizes, at Low Prices, at BISHOP and STARR'S Organ Manufactory, 250, Marylebone-road.

IRON CHURCHES for SALE, with accommodation for Three Hundred Persons. Entirely a new principle of construction, being very easily and inexpensively removed. Repurchased at a remunerative price, reducing the Hire of such Buildings to a moderate amount, and meeting with the requirements so much in request.—S. C. Hemming and Co., 21, Moorgate-street, City.

BLACKPOOL—COLLEGE HOUSE SCHOOL, QUEEN'S SQUARE.—This Establishment, on the West Coast, in one of the healthiest localities in England, combines the advantages of sea air and bathing, with superior intellectual and moral training and the comforts of home.

References:—Rev. Alex. Raleigh, D.D., London; Rev. James Spence, D.D., London; Rev. Andrew Reed, B.A., St. Leonard's; John Grosley, Esq., J.P., Halifax; Henry Lee, Esq., J.P., Manchester.

Prospectuses on application to JAMES GROMPTON, Principal.

COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, CRANFORD HALL, near HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX. At this School YOUNG GENTLEMEN are Soundly Taught, Carefully Trained, and Liberally Fed. Mr. VERNET, the Principal of the School, has had much experience in the work of Education. The premises are large and well adapted. A Circular forwarded upon application.

WEST of ENGLAND DISSENTERS' PROPRIETARY SCHOOL, TAUNTON.

Principal.—REV. W. H. BRIDGEMAN, M.A. The Pupils are expected to re-assemble on Friday, July 30th. Application for Prospectuses to be made to the Principal, or to the Secretary, Rev. J. S. Underwood.

WESTWOOD PARK HOUSE, FOREST HILL, STDENHAM.

The Rev. H. J. CHANCELLOR will be prepared to receive a few additional PUPILS at the commencement of the next Session, August 2.

The course of instruction includes all the subjects required for the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations. MASTERS.—Music:—Instrumental and Vocal, John Blockley, Esq., Jun. DRAWING.—Modelling and Perspective, R. W. Buss, Esq. MODERN LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS, M. Mandron, Esq., M.A. References and full particulars as to domestic and educational arrangements by post.

SOUTHPORT—OXFORD HOUSE, OXFORD-ROAD, BIRDALE-PARK.

JAMES COLLIER, B.A., desires to intimate that he has removed from Berkeley House, Leicester-street, Southport, to the above address. The New Premises have been erected with a special view to the requirements of a first-class school. Prospectuses forwarded. Day of re-opening, August 6th.

HOWARD HOUSE SCHOOL, Thame, near Oxford.—This School, from its establishment in 1840, has paid particular attention to those subjects required in Business. The Pupils (more than 2,000 from the above period) have excelled in "Good Writing," Arithmetic, French, Drawing, Book-keeping, Mercantile Correspondence. The best Penmanship and Drawing in the Exhibition of 1881, also the best Specimens of Book-keeping and Business Letters in the Crystal Palace during the Second Exhibition of 1882, were executed by Pupils in this School. Mr. MAUSH is assisted by Six Resident Masters and Two Lady Teachers. Five Acres of private Cricket Ground.—Terms: 20 Guineas; above Twelve years of age, 22 Guineas. Prospectus, with view of Premises, on application.

MILL HILL SCHOOL, HENDON, MIDDLESEX.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

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